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↖ yes! blame her!

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VJain

©monstabot

クロスブレイド

"BLADE"Project since 1993

原作／イダタツヒコ
漫画／士貴智志

3

XBLADE
クロスブレイド
3
原作／イダタツヒコ
漫画／士貴智志

SKC
シリウスコミックス
KODANSHA

XBLADE

STORY BY IDA TATSUHIKO
COMIC BY SHIKI SATO

3

XBLADE 3

CONTENTS

X.09 WEEP 003

X.10 WINDS OF CHANGE 041

X.11 JUDGEMENT 079

X.12 THRASH 123

X.13 DRAGONFLY 164

HEH.
HEHE...
HE...
HAHAHA
HEHE...
HAH.
HAH!
AAHA
HAHA
HAHA!
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA!

X.09 WEEP

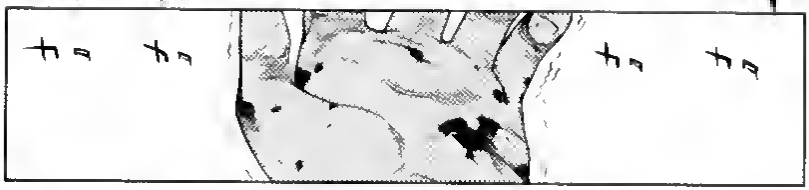
HAH...
HEH...
HAH...
MA...

MANA!!

HARU...

WHA-

WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT THE... HELL IS THIS?



AH?
HUH?

NO! IT WAS... A DUEL...
I... KILLED...?

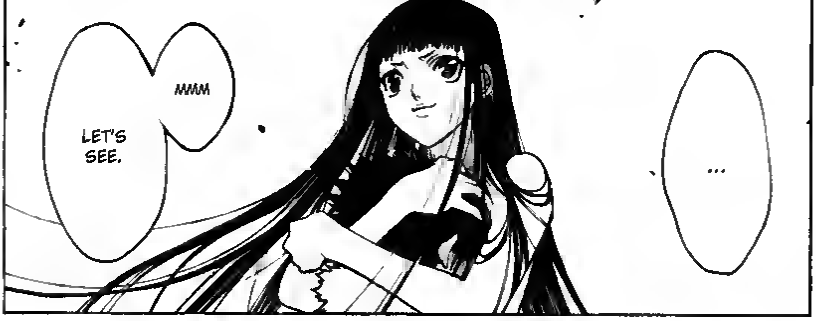
HARU!

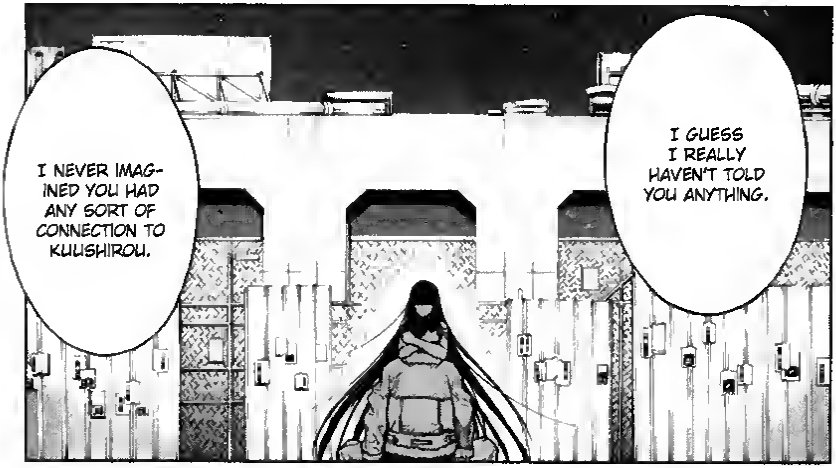
HARU!
MA...
HARU!!
...MANA?

WHERE IS THAT PERSON... I MEAN, WHERE IS KUUSHIROU?!
KU
SHI
U
ROU?
WHAT THE HELL... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MANA? WHO...
THAT'S RIGHT!!

UM...
WHO WAS...
THIS KUU-SHIROU AGAIN?
KUUSHIROU?
IS KUUSHIROU SAFE?!

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DON'T KNOW HIS NAME.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO CONFUSED.
AH...
AAHH...
AHH!
WHA...
UGHH...
HUH?
AHH...
!
ERGH...
UUU...
RELAX
IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY...
FIRST OF ALL, CALM YOUR EMOTIONS.
DOING SUCH MOVEMENTS WITH AN UNTRAINED BODY.
IT MUST BE ROUGH,


MMM
LET'S SEE.
...


I NEVER IMAGINED YOU HAD ANY SORT OF CONNECTION TO KUUSHIROU.
I GUESS I REALLY HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING.

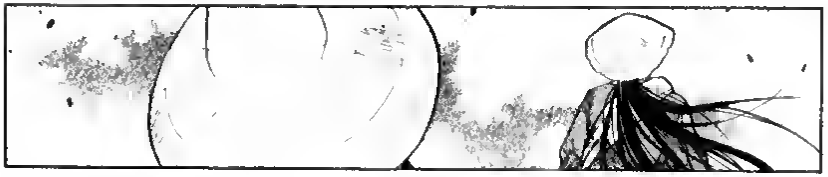
HUH... WHAT WAS I THINKING AGAIN?
WHAT... WHAT WAS I JUST DOING?
ABOUT WHAT?
TALK?
UNTIL YOU'VE CALMED DOWN.
LET'S JUST TALK

IT WAS SUMMER IN THE 2ND YEAR OF KEIAN.

TL NOTE | * OLD NAME OF A PART OF NORTHERN JAPAN

A SECRET AGENT OF THE SHOGUN-ATE*, MOREOVER,
HE WAS A PERSON WHO TOOK CARE OF SPECIAL MISSIONS RELATING TO THE DARK SIDE OF JAPAN.

TL NOTE.
* THE RULING GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN THE MEIJI ERA

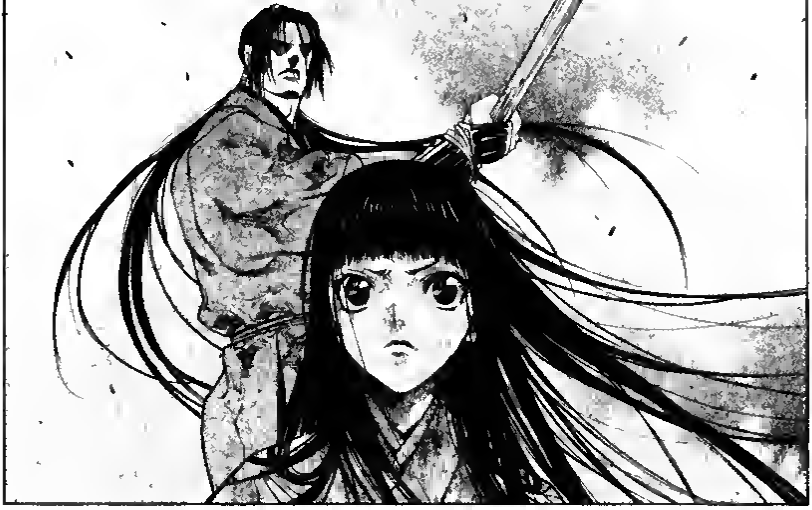


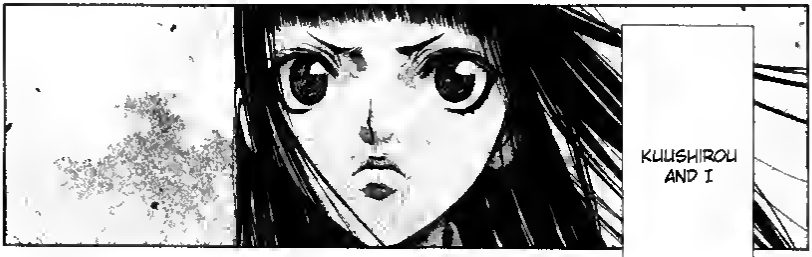
IT WAS ANCIENT...
AN ISLAND NOT OF THIS WORLD.

IT IS A PLACE BETWEEN WORLDS,
AND NORMALLY IT CANNOT BE SEEN; HOWEVER
AT TIMES IT WILL APPEAR, RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF SOME BEING
YA...MATA

AT THAT TIME, OUR MISSION
WAS TO INFILTRATE THE "YAMATA" WHICH HAD APPEARED IN YEZO,
AND TO COLLECT THE "MIRROR."
I HEARD IT WAS THE SACRED MIRROR* KNOWN AS "TSUKUYOMI."**

TL NOTE:
* IN JAPANESE: SHINKYOU -- ONE OF THE THREE SACRED TREASURES OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY, NOW LOCATED IN THE ISE SHRINE (THE HOLIEST SHINTO SHRINE IN JAPAN)
** ME INS SOMETHING "...ONG THE LINES OF "VISION" OF THE "MIDNIGHT MOON"

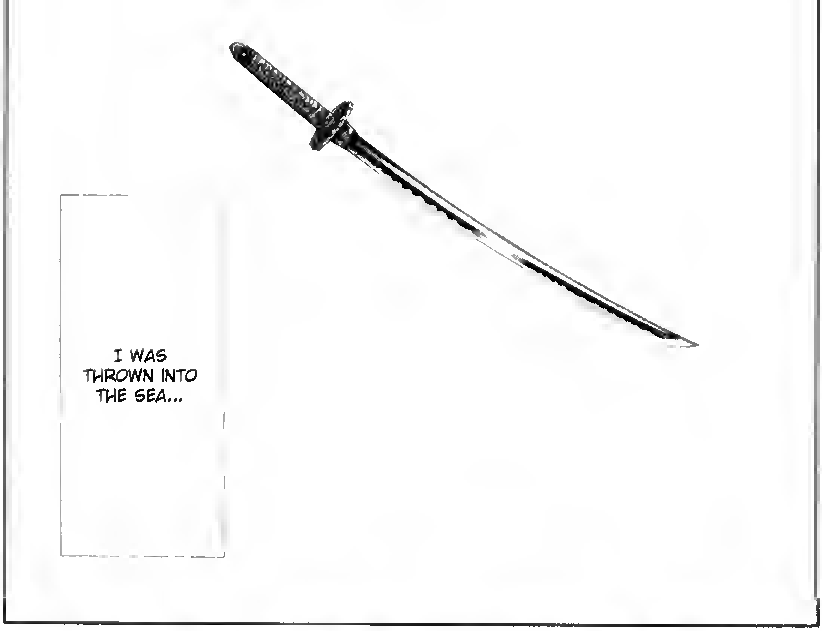



KUUSHIROU AND I

ATTEMPTED TO INFILTRATE "YAMATA."

WE MET WITH A FIERCE ENEMY COUNTERATTACK...
HOWEVER, DEEP INSIDE

WE WERE HOPELESSLY OUTNUM-BERED.
OF COURSE WE FOUGHT VALIANTLY, BUT...


I WAS THROWN INTO THE SEA...

AND KUUSHIROU

REMAINED INSIDE YAMATA...

EVER SINCE THEN,

I HAVE BEEN SLEEPING.
FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS,

NO WHAT WAS IT?
A LOT OF PEOPLE DIED

HUH?
WAS THAT IT?
IF THEY MAKE THE FIRST MOVE, MERCY IS USELESS?

WHAT WAS THAT?
IT WAS LIKE SOMEONE WAS SAYING IT TO ME...

KUUSHIROU IS ALIVE!
BUT...

...KUU SHI-ROU?
BECAUSE THE METAMORPHOS-ING GUARDIAN BLADE'S LIVES ARE TIED TO THOSE OF THEIR WIELDER!
THAT KUUSHIROU HAS TO BE ALIVE AS WELL!
THE FACT THAT I'M ALIVE MEANS
IT'S KUUSHIROU!
"THAT PERSON" YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR IN THIS ERA...
MANA...

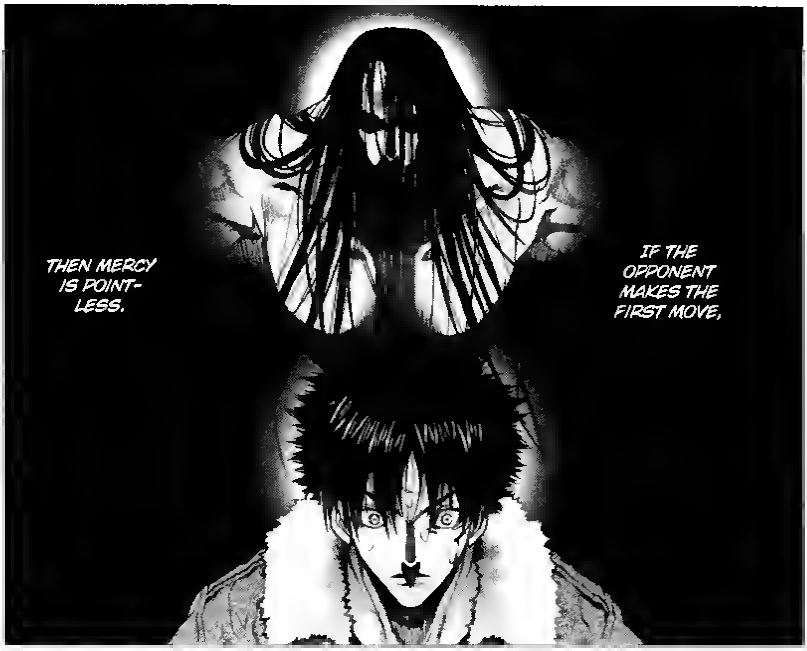
THE ONE WHOM YOU OFFERED UP YOUR BODY
AND BECAME A SWORD FOR?

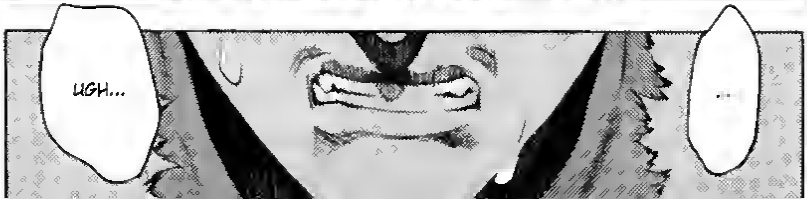
IT WAS KUUSHIROU!

KUUSHIROU MUST HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED IN "YAMATA"
WHILE I WAS SLEEPING.
YAMATA...

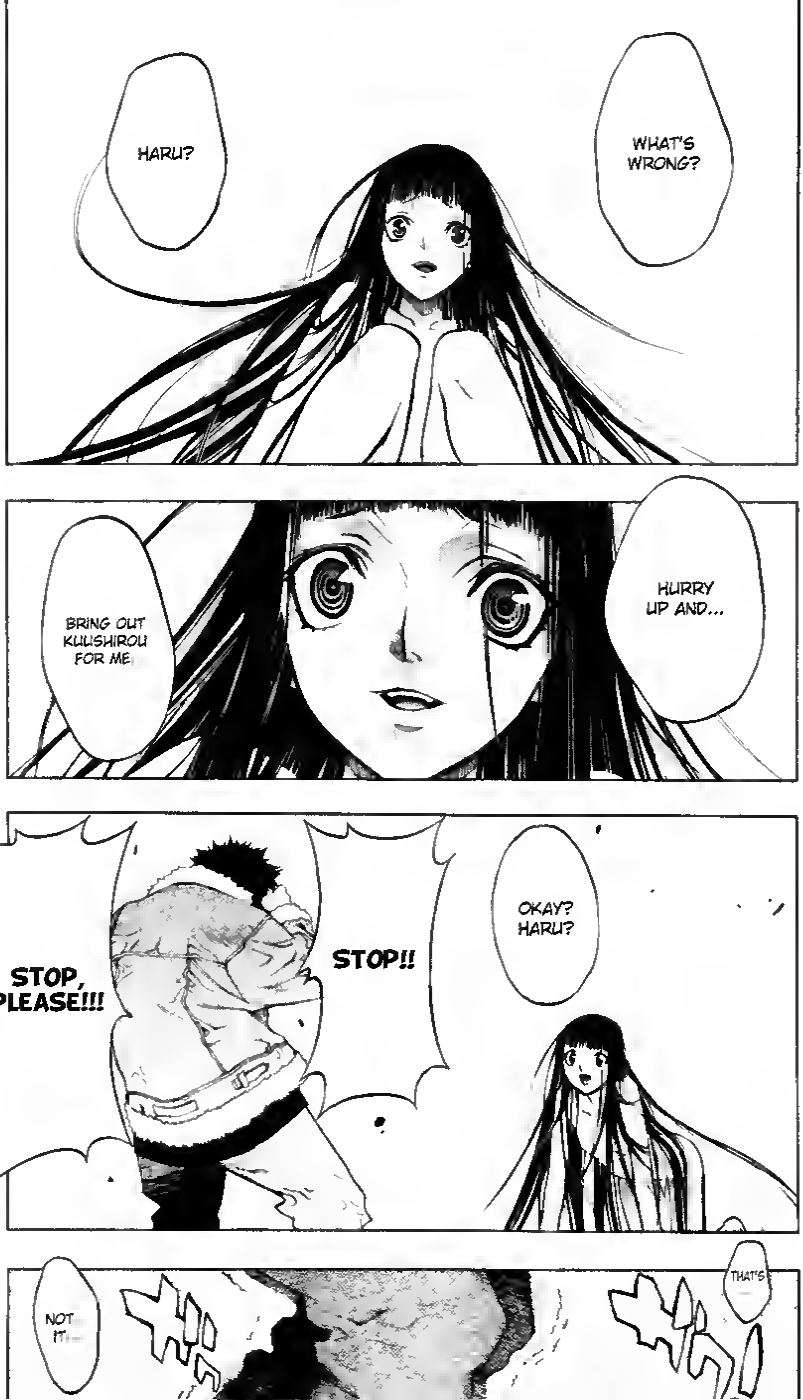
KUUSHIROU IS INSIDE OF YOU, ISN'T HE?
HARU...
BUT, IT'S GREAT!
OF ME?!
INSIDE...
WASN'T HE USING YOUR BODY UNTIL JUST NOW?
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S NOT MURDER...
I DON'T KNOW THE REASON, BUT...
THERE'S NO WAY I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRANSFORM INTO A KATANA FOR ANYONE BUT KUUSHIROU!
IT WAS A DUEL.

KUUSHIROU IS INSIDE OF YOU!


IF THE OPPONENT MAKES THE FIRST MOVE,
THEN MERCY IS POINT-LESS.


UGH...
...

UWAAAAAAAA
AAAAH!
HARU?
...
STO
OOO
OOP!


HARU?
WHAT'S WRONG?
BRING OUT KUUSHIROU FOR ME.
HURRY UP AND...
STOP, PLEASE!!!
STOP!!
OKAY? HARU?
NOT IT...
THAT'S...

HARU?

AWL

I'M NOT LIKE THAT!!
YOU'RE WRONG!
HARU...
...
UUUUUUU
ERRRGH
UGH...

X.09 END

WE NEED A FUCKIN TYPESETTER!!
PM XINAN OR ANY OP AT NCIS@RCHIGHWAY NET
OR VISIT HTTP //NCISMANGA NET/ AND PM ANY ADMIN
@MONSTABOT

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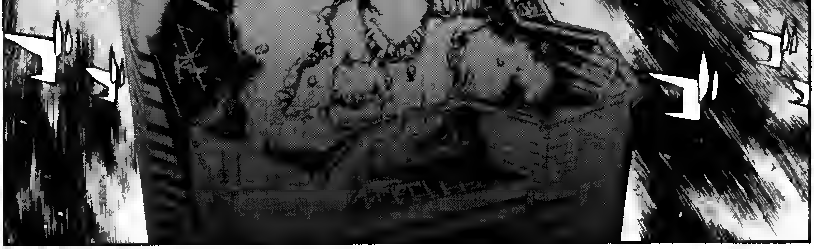
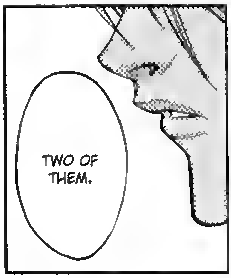
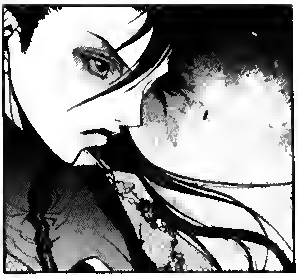
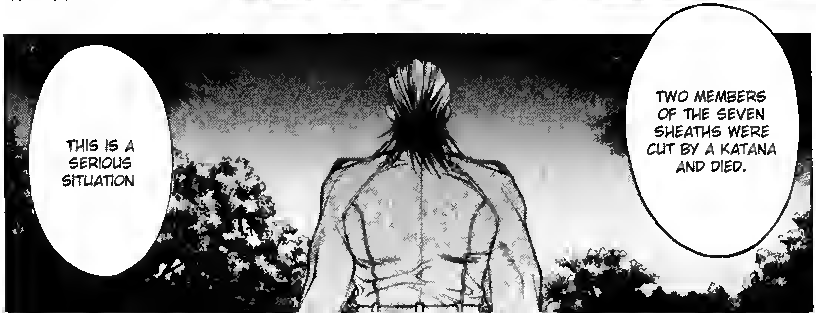
X.10 WINDS OF CHANGE
BABEL




TWO OF THEM.




THIS IS A SERIOUS SITUATION
TWO MEMBERS OF THE SEVEN SHEATHS WERE CUT BY A KATANA AND DIED.

YES.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THE GUARDIAN BLADE MANA THAT WE'VE BEEN AFTER HAS BEEN WIELDED?!
ARE YOU FOR REAL SUOU?!
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS INFORMATION FROM?
AFTER ALL, HOW COULD THERE BE A GUARDIAN BLADE THAT WOULD TRANSFORM FOR ANYONE BUT ITS TRUE WIELDER?
THE "HIGH ONES."
THE SECRET INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF YAMATA HAS...
...!!

CHE.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YAMATA HAS MOBILIZED SOMEONE OTHER THAN US OVER THIS INCIDENT.
THE BLUNDER COMMITTED THIS TIME COULD PROVE QUITE DANGEROUS TO US.
FOR THAT REASON,
HAHA...
THERE'S NO PROBLEM IF WE JUST CUT HIM DOWN AND TAKE BACK MANA.
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? I DUNNO WHO WIELDED MANA, BUT
MOREOVER,
WE MUST CAREFULLY CONSIDER ANY DANGER OF LOSING MANA AGAIN.
THE SITUATION IS NOT SO SIMPLE.
NO.

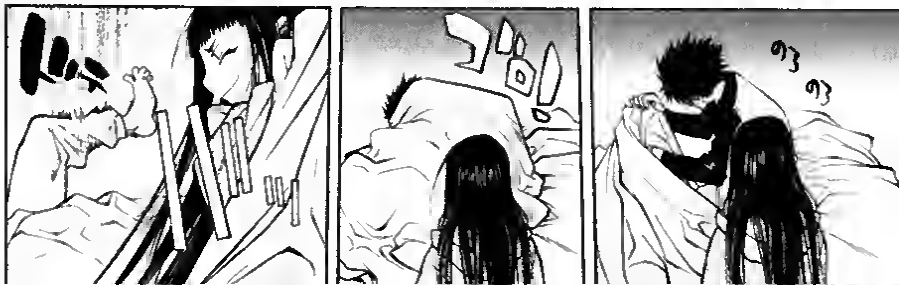
FUJIMARU, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE WANTED TO ASK YOU FOR A WHILE.

!?
...

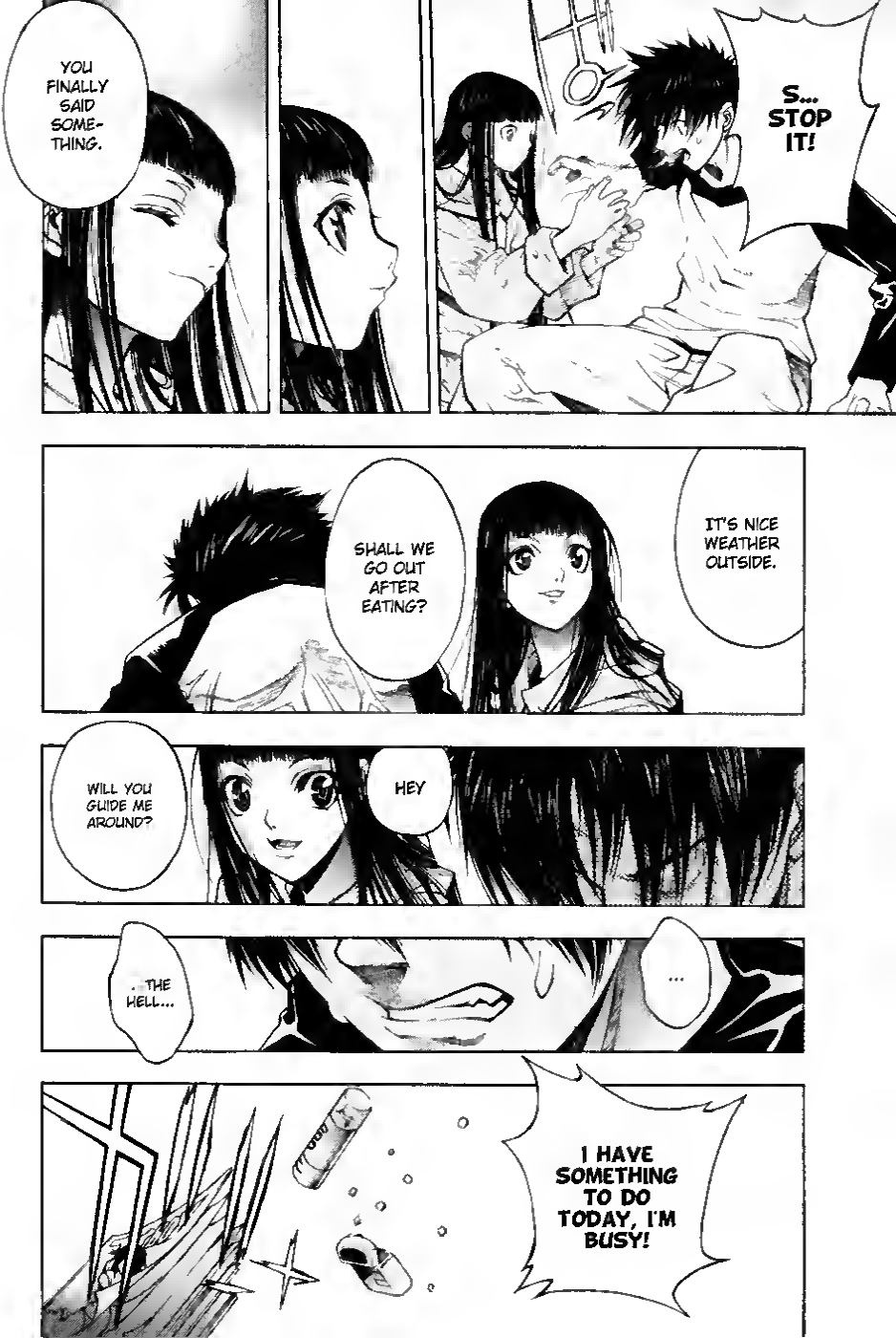
ABOUT THE BOY WHO CUT DOWN NIBI AND UTSUBUSHI.

HA
RU!!

HURRY AND WAKE UP! I MADE BREAKFAST FOR YOU!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?



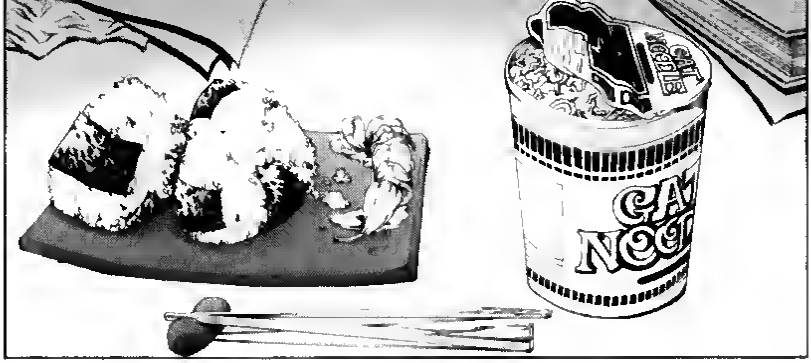
GET UP!
HEY!
YOU'RE HUNGRY RIGHT?
SHALL I LET YOU EAT SOME-THING?
HM?


YOU FINALLY SAID SOME-THING.
S... STOP IT!
IT'S NICE WEATHER OUTSIDE.
SHALL WE GO OUT AFTER EATING?
HEY
WILL YOU GUIDE ME AROUND?
. THE HELL...
...
I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO TODAY, I'M BUSY!

DON'T TALK TO ME WITH THAT SWEET VOICE!
DON'T...
GET OUT.
OUT OF MY ROOM !!
GET THE HELL
HARU.

HURRY AND COME EAT
BEFORE THE FOOD GETS COLD.
DAMNIT...
WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING?
IN THE END...

THE ONE USING MY BODY WAS...
MANA'S MAN...
MANA JUST LOOKS RIGHT THROUGH ME, AND ONLY SEES HIM....
...AND ON TOP OF THAT...
I...
PEOPLE...
TWO...



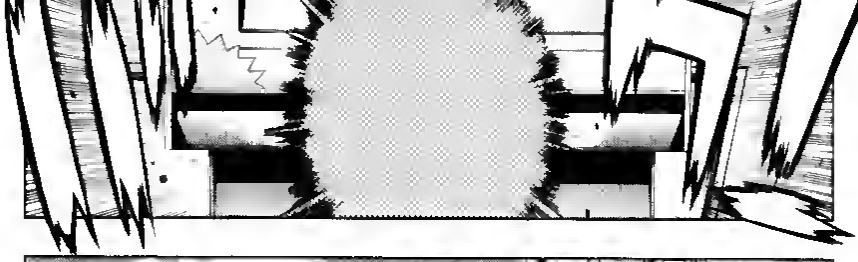
HARU?

ガラッ
ドタドタ

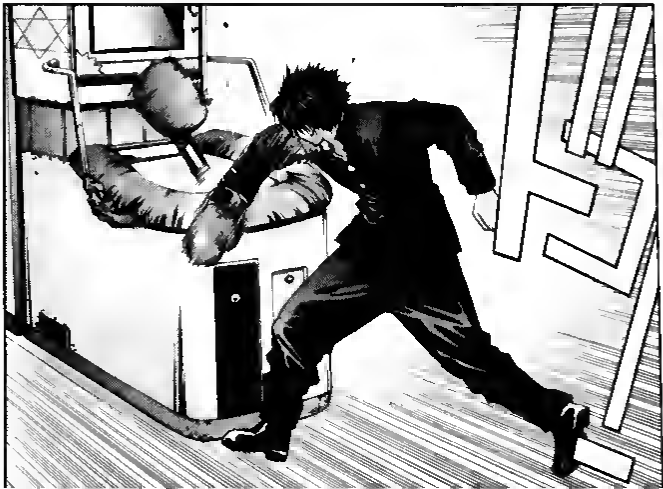
HARU!

TO SCHOOL!
HEY! HARU, WHERE ARE YOU...

I CAN'T STAND IT...
I DON'T WANT TO
HEAR MANA'S VOICE RIGHT NOW...



ドコ
ドン!
GAMEBOX
FUJIKA



TOP100
1位 512.531 kw
2位 491.348 kw
3位 483
TOP100

おお

DAMNIT ...
GEH...

OHHH
SHIT!
OOO
!!
AHH
HAH
HAAA
HAAH
DAMNIT... USING SOMEBODY'S BODY LIKE A PLAYTHING...
IT HURTS...

SHIIIITTT!

AH?!
!
WHAT IS IT?
HOW LONG
HAS THIS GUY BEEN HERE?
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME?
...HM.
YOU'RE MORISAKI-KUN, RIGHT?

IS IT TRUE
THAT YOU CUT DOWN NIBI AND UTSUBUSHI?

!!
YOU'RE...

WHAT IS IT? IS THERE TROUBLE?
IS IT A FIGHT?
COMEON DO IT SOME-WHERE ELSE
IS HE SERIOUS?!
HE PLANS TO FIGHT IN A PLACE WITH SO MANY PEOPLE?
NO WAY...
SAKI!!

!!!
LET'S DO IT!

I WANT TO REQUEST A ONE ON ONE MATCH WITH YOU!
I'M ONE OF THE SEVEN SHEATHS, SAKURA!
A GUARDIAN BLADE TOO?!
HE HAS
IT'S LONGER THAN ANY KATANA I'VE EVER SEEN!
IT'S LONG!
WHAT'S WITH THAT SWORD?

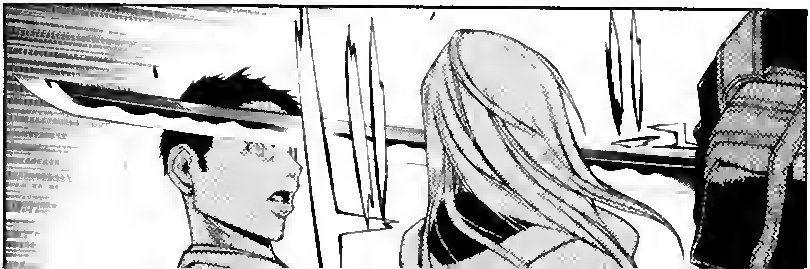
EH? WHAT? WASN'T THERE A GIRL THERE JUST NOW?
THAT'S RIGHT, I THINK
WHAT IS THAT? IS IT FOR REAL? ARE THEY FILMING SOMETHING?
WHATEVER, YOU GOT A CAMERA?

OKAY MORISAKI-KUN,
YOU NEED A SWORD TOO...

BRING MANA
HERE!

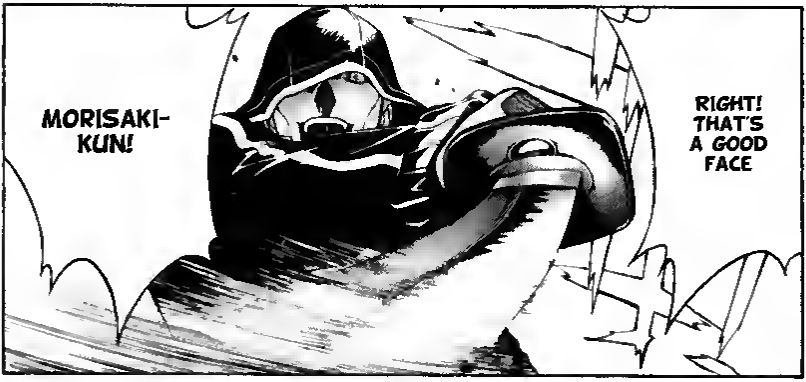
ARE YOU KIDDING?!
ARE YOU INSANE? IN THIS SORT OF PLACE?
I REFUSE!

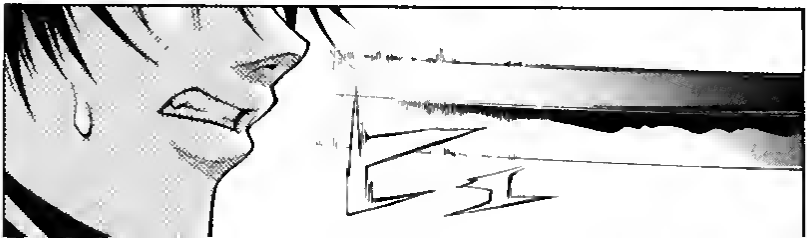
OKAY.
NO CHOICE THEN

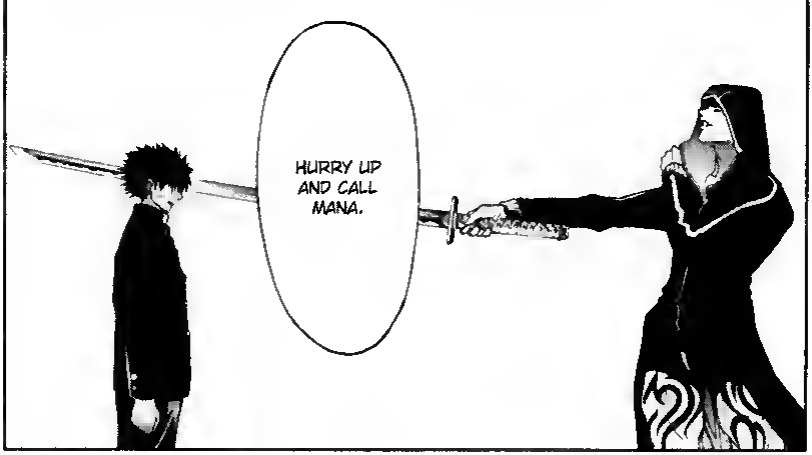


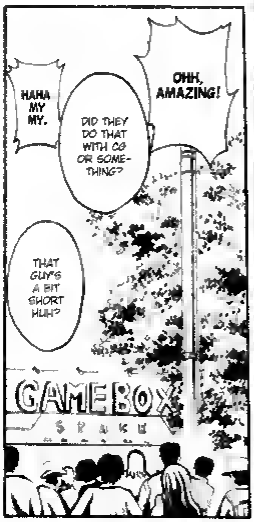
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, JUST YELL OUT.
EEK!
UNTIL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, I'LL HAVE SOME FUN WITH THESE PEOPLE.

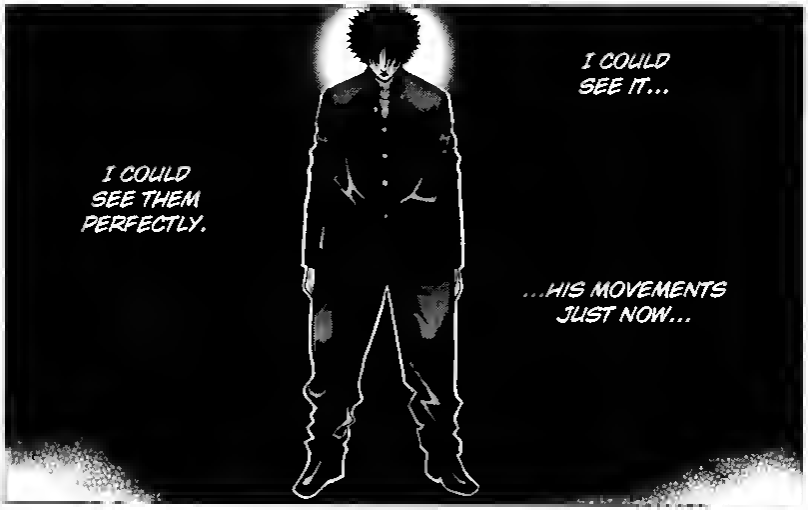
UGH...


MORISAKI-KUN!
RIGHT! THAT'S A GOOD FACE

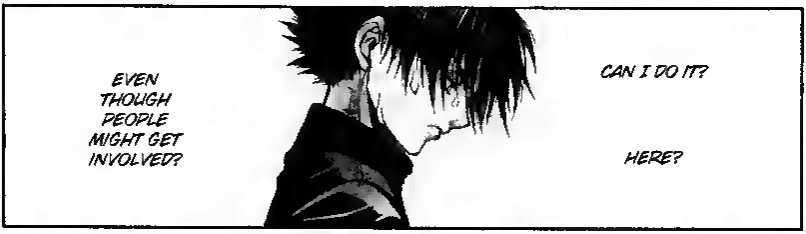



HURRY UP AND CALL MANA.

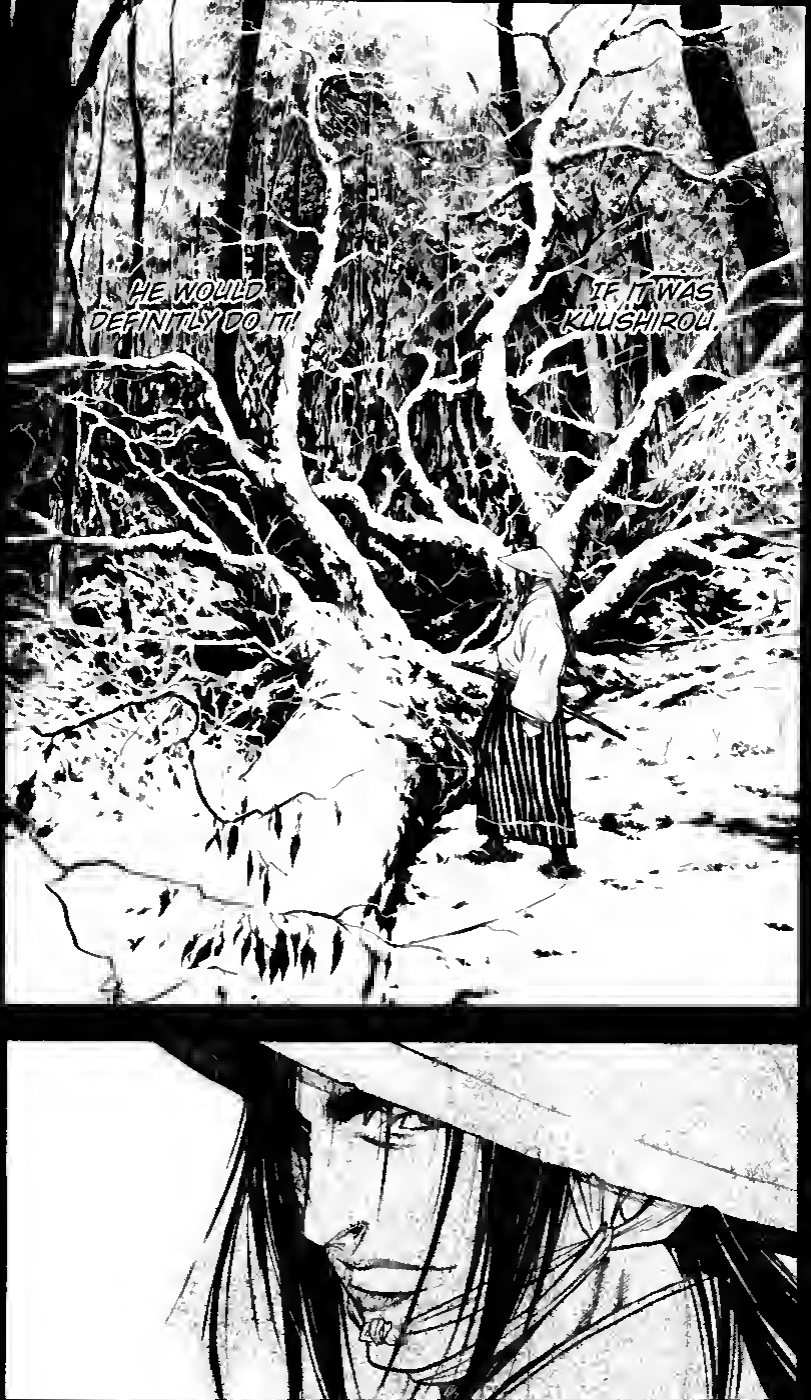

OHH, AMAZING!
DID THEY DO THAT WITH CG OR SOMETHING?
HAHA MY MY.
THAT GUY'S A BIT SHORT HUH?
GAMEBOX


I COULD SEE IT...
I COULD SEE THEM PERFECTLY.
...HIS MOVEMENTS JUST NOW...

HAVE ALL REMAINED INSIDE OF ME.
THE SENSATIONS FROM THAT TIME


EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE MIGHT GET INVOLVED?
CAN I DO IT?
HERE?

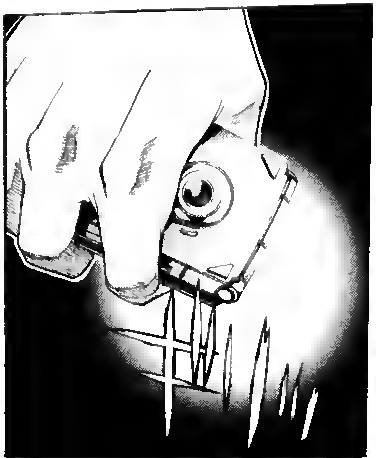
THAT GUY...


HE WOULD DEFINITLY DO IT.
IF IT WAS KUUSHIROU.

!

ALRIGHT MORISAKI-KUN.

I AMooo



TIME TO
CALL MANA.

MANA!!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
!!?
TOO SLOW
NO WAY...
!!

I AM CRUSADER KRIS KUSAKADO, OF THE SECRET ENGLAND ALLIANCE.
MORISAKI HARUMI,
I MUST ASK THAT YOU ACCOMPANY ME TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE HOLLYHOCK SYNDICATE.
X.10 END

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↖ yes! Blame her!

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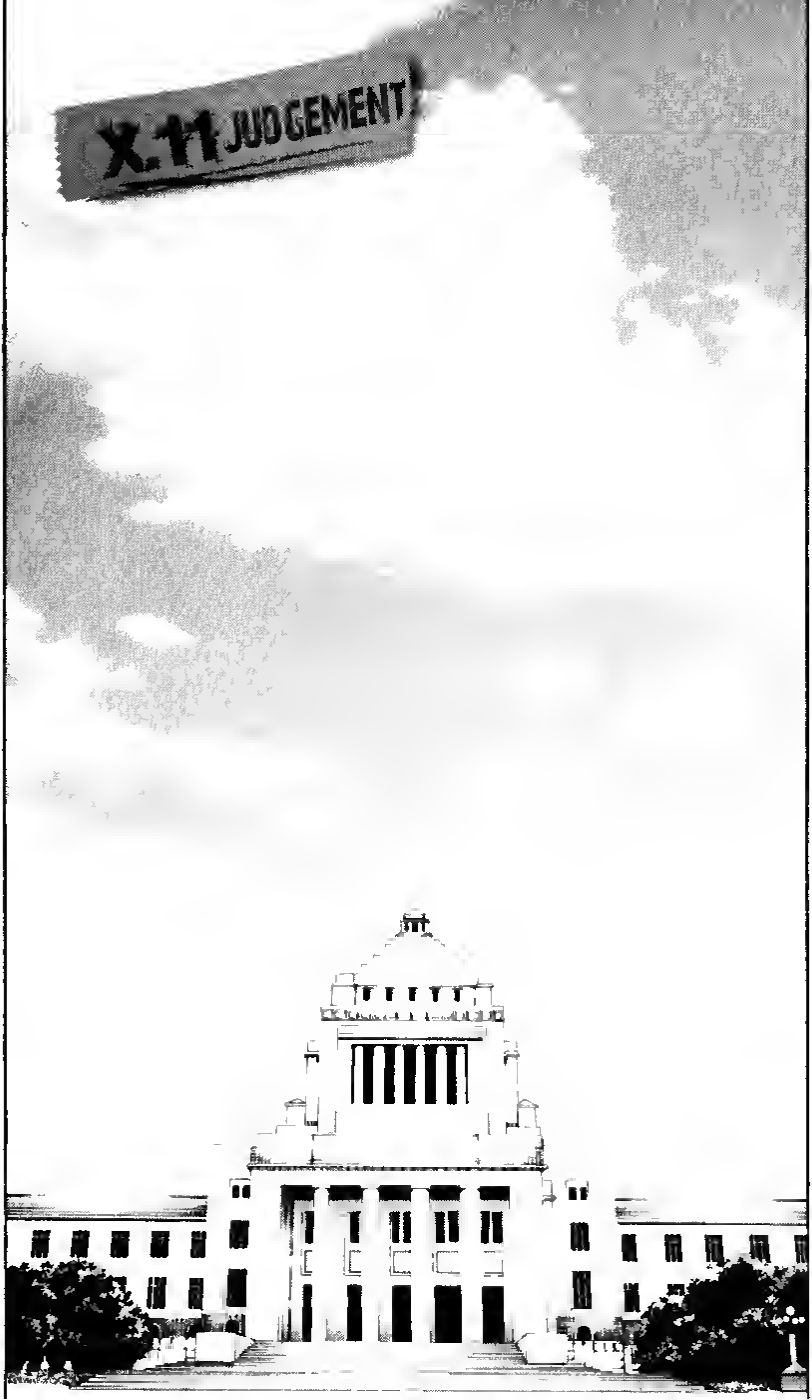
©monstabot


X.11 JUDGEMENT

I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU, MORISAKI HARUMI.
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD COME HERE WITHOUT A FUSS.

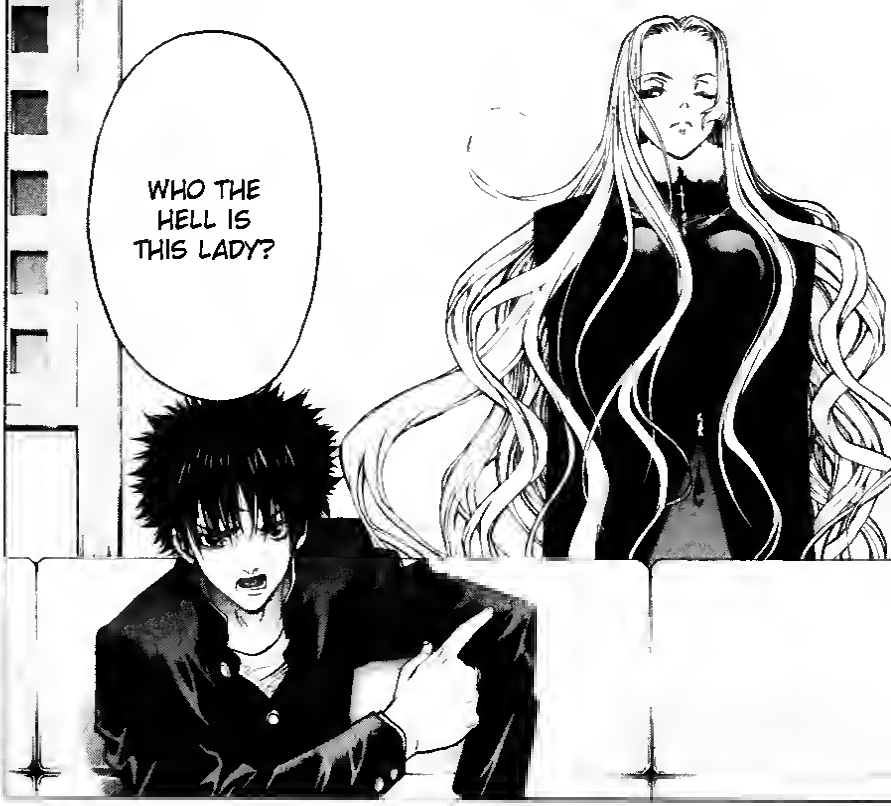
MEH.

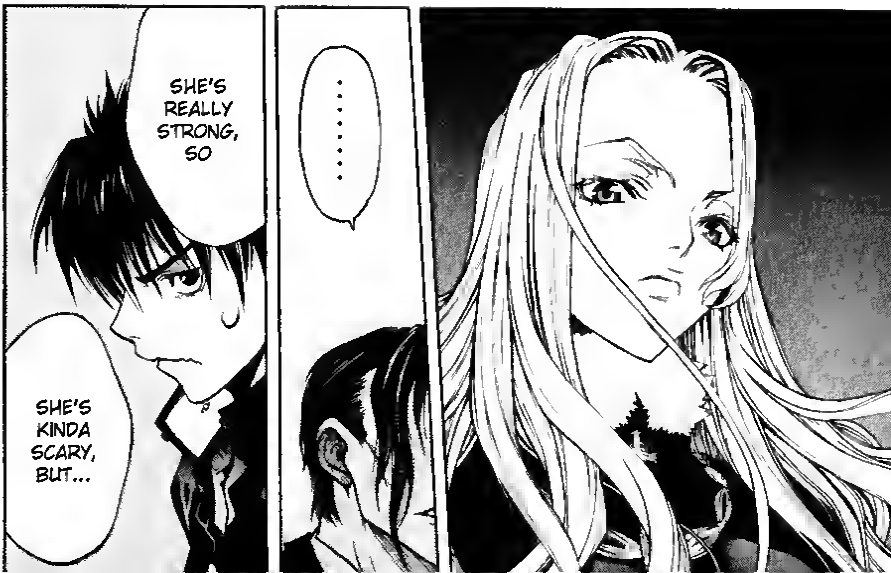
ARE YOU PLANNING TO STRONG-ARM ME?

WITHOUT HESITATION IF NECESSARY.

ANYHOW, RIGHT NOW YOU ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON WHO CAN CONTROL EVEN THE FATE OF THE NATION.

THAT'S IT.
YOU SEE, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND
THE SITUATION THAT I'M IN RIGHT NOW.
SO I CAME FOR AN EXPLANATION.
BUT, BEFORE THAT...

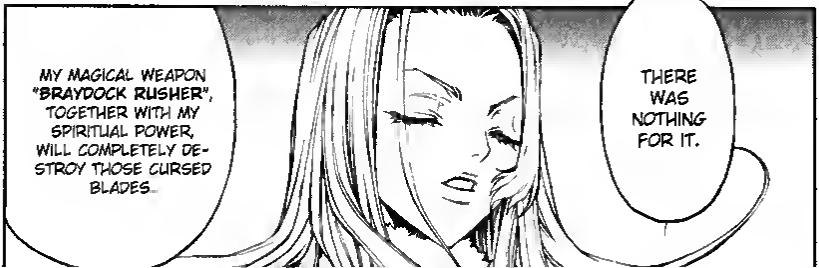

WHO THE HELL IS THIS LADY?


SHE'S REALLY STRONG, SO
SHE'S KINDA SCARY, BUT...
.....

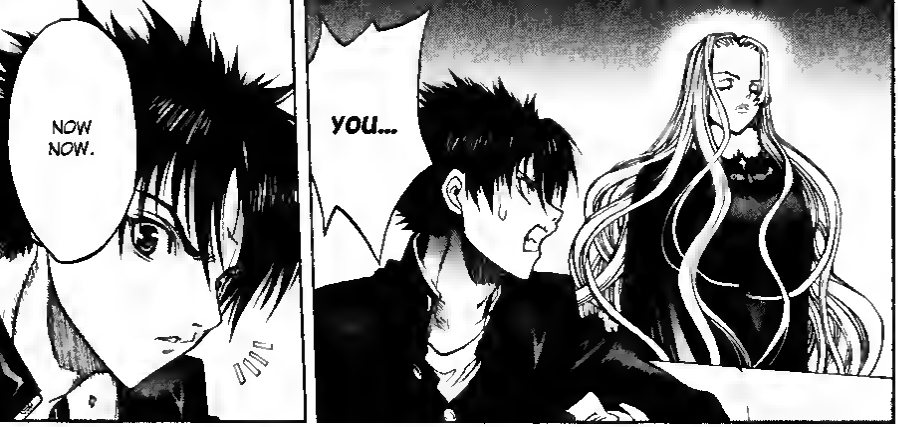
AH...
AA...
AH...

AHHH-
HHHH-
HHH!!
SAKI!!!!
!!

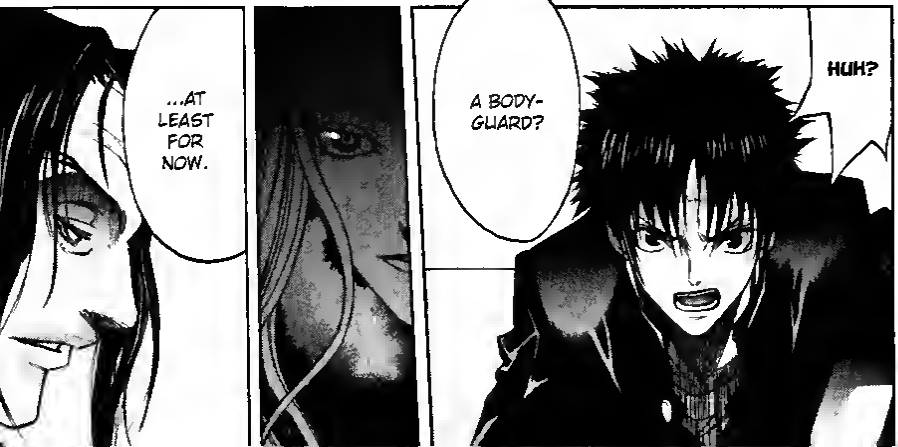
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GUARDIAN BLADE BREAKS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE TWO FROM BEFORE?


MY MAGICAL WEAPON "BRAYDOCK RUSHER", TOGETHER WITH MY SPIRITUAL POWER, WILL COMPLETELY DESTROY THOSE CURSED BLADES...
THERE WAS NOTHING FOR IT.

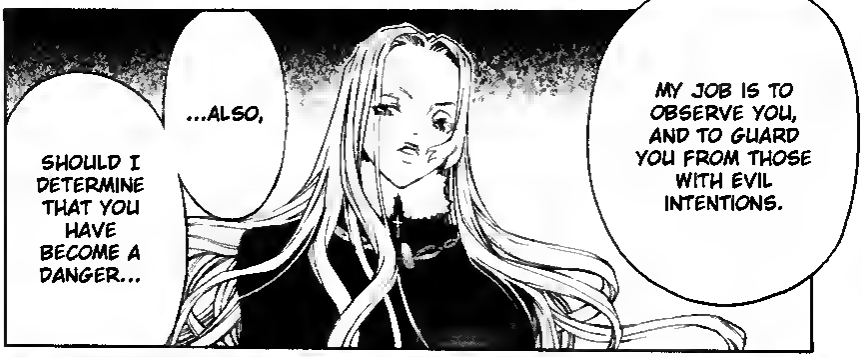
DESTROY
?!
!!


NOW NOW.
YOU...

SHE IS, SO TO SPEAK, YOUR BODY-GUARD.


...AT LEAST FOR NOW.
A BODY-GUARD?
HUH?

AS I SAID BEFORE, MORISAKI HARUMI-KUN,
RIGHT NOW YOUR EXISTENCE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, AND DANGEROUS.


MY JOB IS TO OBSERVE YOU, AND TO GUARD YOU FROM THOSE WITH EVIL INTENTIONS.
...ALSO,
SHOULD I DETERMINE THAT YOU HAVE BECOME A DANGER...

TO ELIMINATE YOU.

CORRECT.
YOU'RE NOT MY ALLY.
IN OTHER WORDS,
SHE IS AN AGENT DISPATCHED FROM AN ORGANIZATION BASED IN ENGLAND.
WE, THE HOLLYHOCK SYNDICATE, HAVE ENTERED INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THEM.

THAT WASN'T WHAT I CAME HERE TO ASK TODAY.
WELL, WHATEVER!

ME...
MANA...
AND "THAT" PART OF TOKYO ARE WHAT I WANT TO ASK ABOUT.

"THAT..."
I SEE.

IT HAS NEVER BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD, BUT
THE GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY HAS A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF ALMOST EVERYTHING THAT OCCURRED FOUR YEARS AGO.

.....

!!
FOUR YEARS AGO.
MORISAKI-KUN, YOU SAW IT DIDN'T YOU?

YOU, THE ONLY SURVIVOR FROM THE 13TH WARD OF TOKYO...

MUST HAVE SEEN "THAT."

I DON'T REMEMBER...
JUST... THAT SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLY HUGE FELL FROM THE SKY...

HMM,
THOSE WERE THE SAME WORDS YOU SPOKE AFTER BEING RESCUED FROM THE 13TH WARD.
WELL THEN,
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MADE ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO IT CLASSI-FIED.
THAT WAS TAKEN DURING THE GREAT DISASTER OF TOKYO.

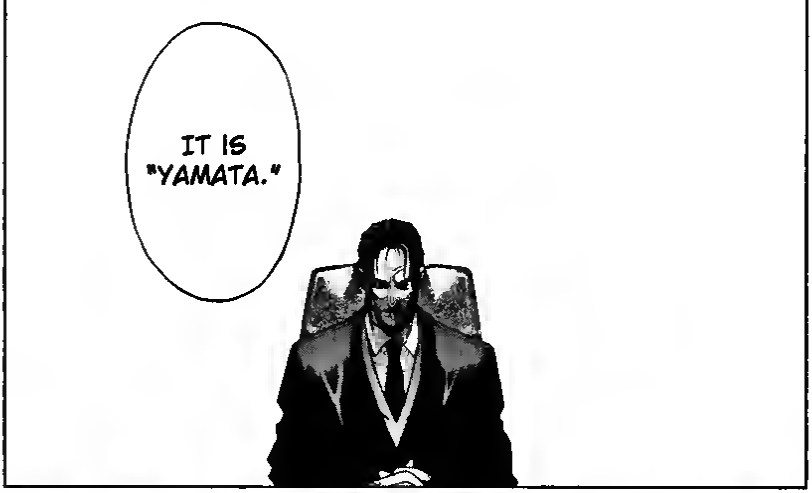
IT FELL FROM THE SKY OVER TOKYO.
THAT IS A PHOTO OF THAT "UNBELIEVABLY HUGE THING."

AH...
AHH...

AAAA
GGGH
HHH!!

I REMEM-
BER! IT
FELL FROM
THE SKY!
I RE-
MEMBER!

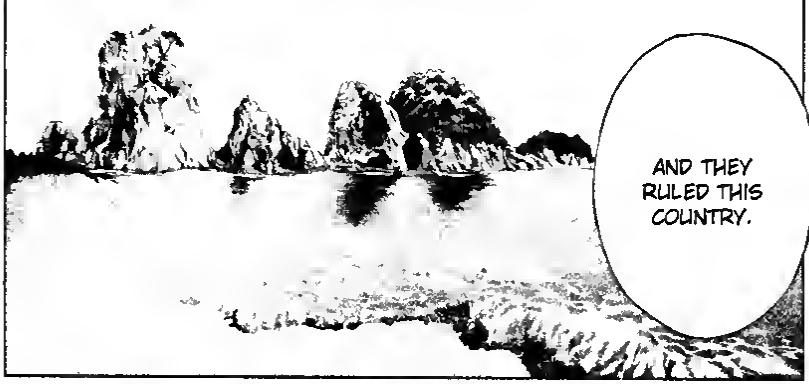
WHAT
THE
HELL IS
IT?!


IT IS "YAMATA."

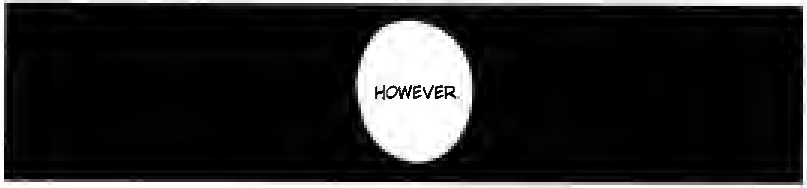
YA... MATA...

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE HIGHER UPS AT YAMATA HEAR ABOUT THIS?!
A VERY OLD ISLAND THAT IS NOT PART OF THIS WORLD.
IT IS AN ISLAND.

HONSHUU.
SHI-KOKU.
KYUU SHUU.
AND HOKKAIDO THESE ARE THE FOUR ISLANDS THAT MAKE UP OUR COUNTRY
HOWEVER, IN THE PAST, ONE MORE LARGE ISLAND
CALLED "YAMATA" EXISTED.
IT WAS THE 5TH ISLAND OF JAPAN.
IT ONCE EXISTED AS PART OF THIS COUNTRY.
WHAT IS YAMATA?!

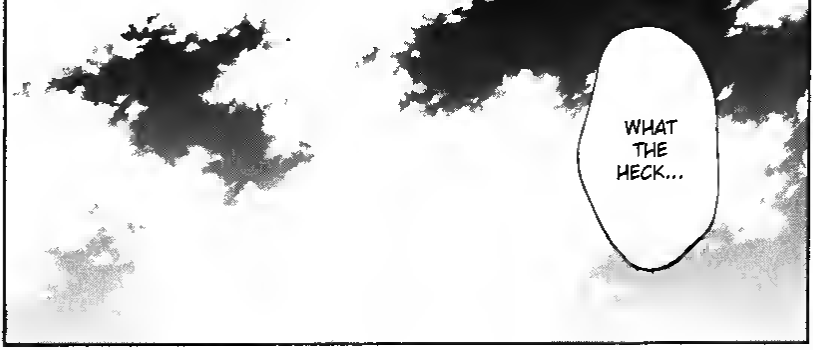

AND THEY RULED THIS COUNTRY.

WHA-

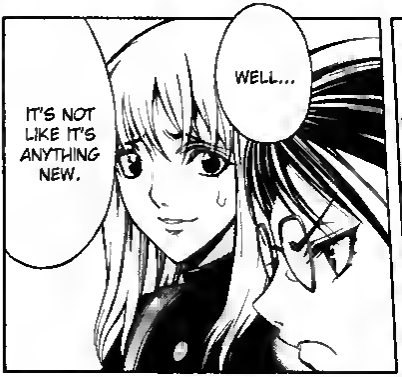

HOWEVER.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE REACHED A STAGE WHERE THAT EXISTENCE COMPETES WITH THE REST OF JAPAN FOR DOMINANCE, AND IT HAS BECOME SOMETHING THAT EFFECTS US GREATLY.
THAT KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ERASED FROM JAPANESE HISTORY,
ALONG WITH THE ISLAND ITSELF.

.....?
GROUPS STILL REMAIN
WHICH AIM FOR THE RESTORATION OF YAMATA.
THE POWER TO REIGN OVER THIS COUNTRY WILL BE DETERMINED BY WHETHER ITS STRENGTH IS USED OR SUPPRESSED.
HOLD...
TO PUT IT PLAINLY, THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY
CAN BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN BEEN BUILT BY THE POWER OF THOSE TWO GROUPS STRUGGLING OVER YAMATA.
WAIT
A SECOND...


WHAT THE HECK...

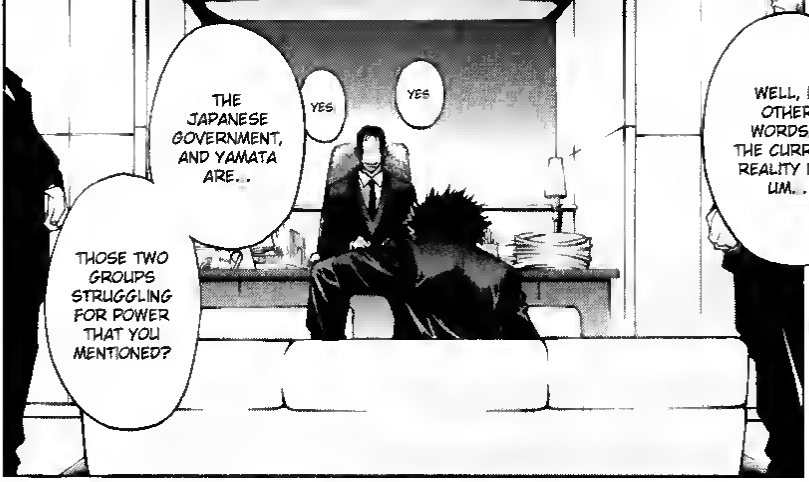
THAT STUPID HARU!


WELL...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ANYTHING NEW.

HE'S SKIPPING SCHOOL AGAIN!

SANAE, YOU'RE GOING TO FAR—
IT SEEMS HE'S JUST GETTING STUPIDER AND STUPIDER AND STUPIDER.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT GUY'S BRAIN.

HARU YOU IDIOT!
IDIOT! IDIOT!
SO, THAT MEANS...
I-I-I!

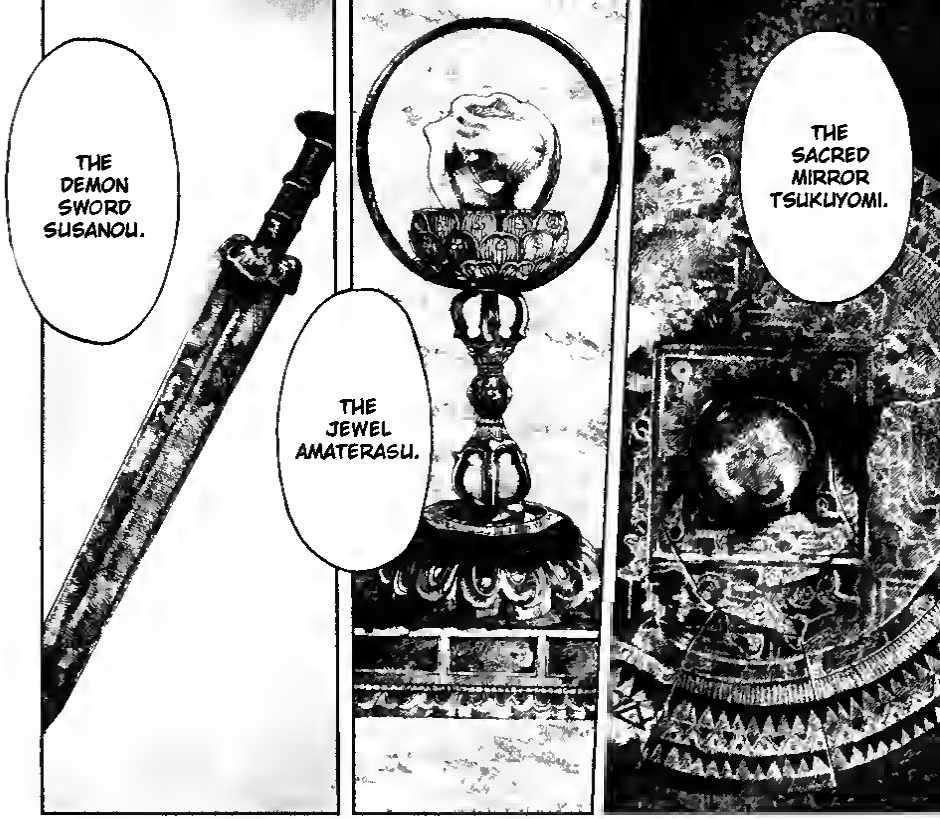

WELL, IN OTHER WORDS... THE CURRENT REALITY IS... UM...
YES
YES
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, AND YAMATA ARE...
THOSE TWO GROUPS STRUGGLING FOR POWER THAT YOU MENTIONED?

ALSO, YOU GUYS, THE "HOLLYHOCK SYNDICATE," ARE AN AGENCY OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, SO...
THOSE GUY FROM THE SEVEN SHEATHS MUST BE YAMATA'S SPECIAL ATTACK SQUAD OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

EXACTLY.
ほ,
ほ,
ほ,

CHE.
SO STUPID.
HUH?!

IT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO.
THE REMNANTS OF THE GROUPS SUPPORTING YAMATA PLANNED TO BRING THE 5TH ISLAND BACK INTO THIS WORLD AGAIN.
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YAMATA?!
HOLD ON A SECOND!
HO-
FOR THAT PURPOSE THEY ARE COLLECTING ALL OF THE "METAMORPHOSING GUARDIAN BLADES" AND THEIR "WIELDERS" FROM THE PAST.
THE THREE SACRED TREASURES.
TO RETURN YAMATA TO THIS WORLD, THREE ITEMS ARE NEEDED.


THE DEMON SWORD SUSANOU.
THE JEWEL AMATERASU.
THE SACRED MIRROR TSUKUYOMI.

HOWEVER,
UP TILL NOW, TWO OF THEM, "AMATERASU" AND "SUSANOU," HAVE BEEN USED AS MATERIALS FOR CREATING METAMORPHOSING GUARDIAN BLADES.
TSUKUYOMI! WAS THAT THE MIRROR MANA WAS TALKING ABOUT?

SO THOSE IN YAMATA THOUGHT
TO GATHER ALL OF THE GUARDIAN BLADES HERE IN THIS ERA, AND HAVE A BATTLE ROYALE!
IF ALL THE GUARDIAN BLADES ENGAGED IN BATTLE AMONG THEMSELVES, IN THE END THE TWO SACRED TREASURES WOULD BE RESTORED TO PURITY.

AS FAR AS WE KNOW, AT LEAST THREE PAIRS OF WIELDERS AND GUARDIAN BLADES REMAINED ALIVE.
HOWEVER, IT DID NOT TURN OUT THAT WAY.
AS A RESULT,
YAMATA, WHICH SHOULD HAVE APPEARED IN TOKYO BAY,
EMERGED UPSIDE DOWN FROM THE SKY ABOVE TOKYO!

YAMATA WAS IMPERFECTLY RESURRECTED,
AND TOKYO COLLAPSED.

WHAT
...
IS
THIS?
!!?

STOP IT... BACK THEN...
STOP...
DAD...
MOM...

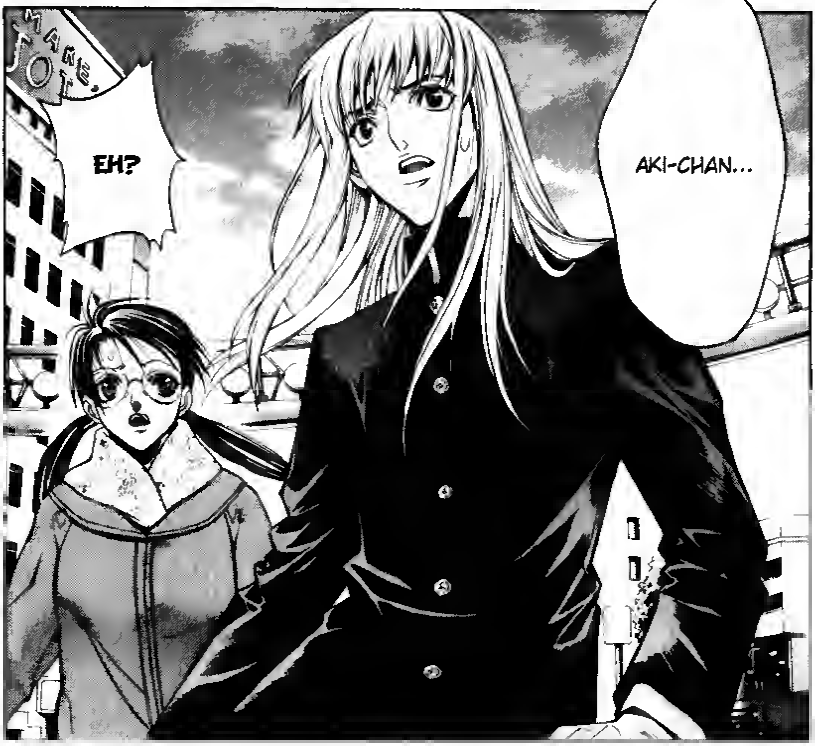
BRO...
THER...

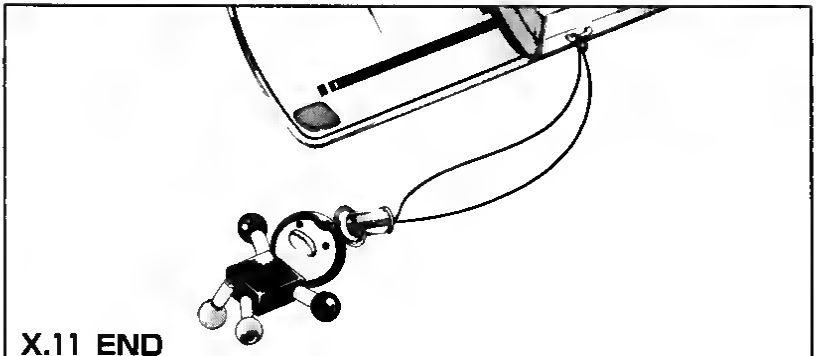
A...
AKI...
AFTER THAT.

AND KEPT ALL INFORMATION SECRET.
BUT,
THE GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY BLOCKADED TOKYO,
IT SEEMS THAT A PERFECT RESTORATION OF YAMATA WAS IMPOSSIBLE FROM THE BEGINNING.
THE REASON
WAS COMPLETELY HIDDEN FROM THEM.
IS THAT ONE METAMORPHOSING GUARDIAN BLADE
AT LEAST SOME OF THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SITUATION
I HOPE THAT YOU NOW UNDERSTAND,

HE'S NOT PICKING UP.
HE MUST HAVE A COLD OR SOME-THING.
GEEZ
ENOUGH ALREADY!
YEAH.
LET'S JUST GO!

!
KAZU-NARI!?
HEY! KAZU-NARI!
WHAT'S WRONG!
WAIT UP!
GEEZ!
WHAT IS THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN KAZU-NARI!?





X.11 END

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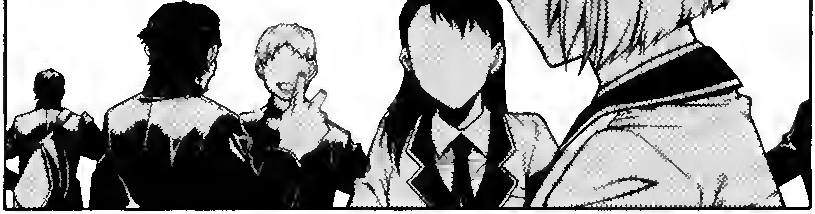
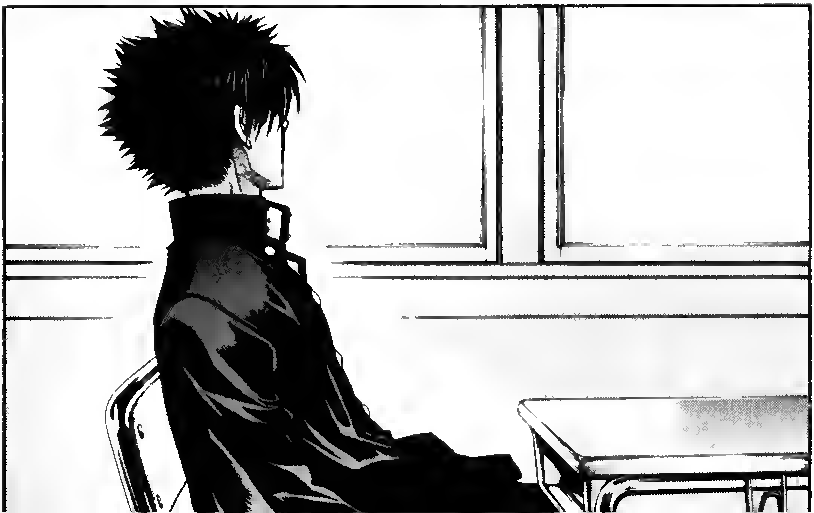
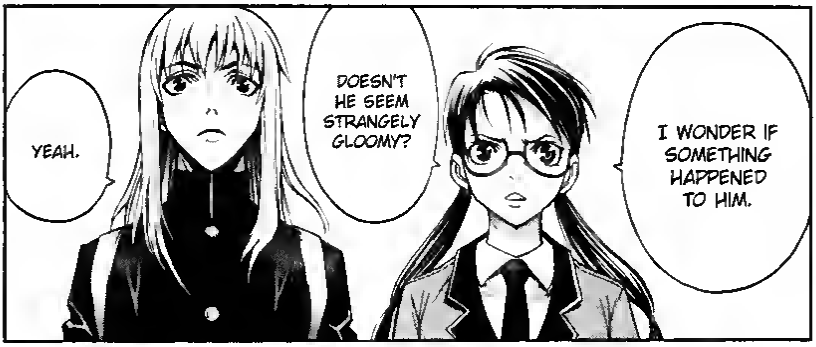
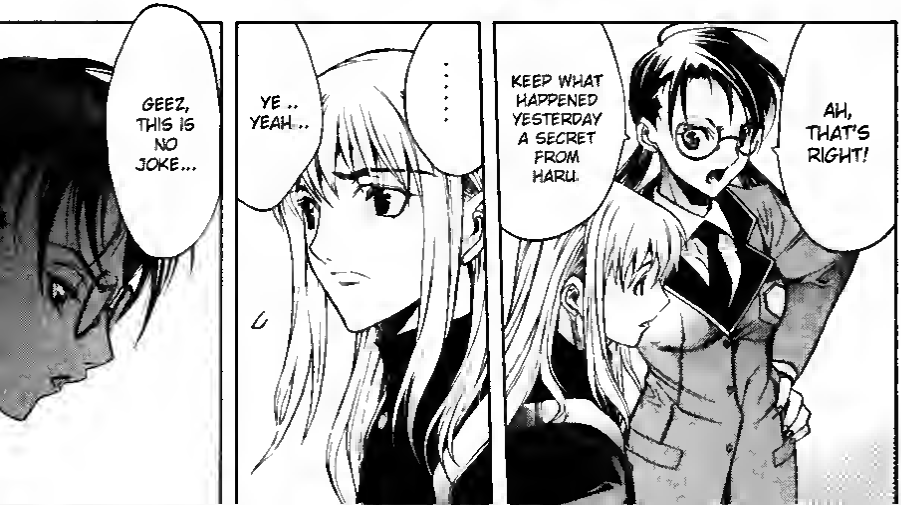





I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM.
DOESN'T HE SEEM STRANGELY GLOOMY?
YEAH.

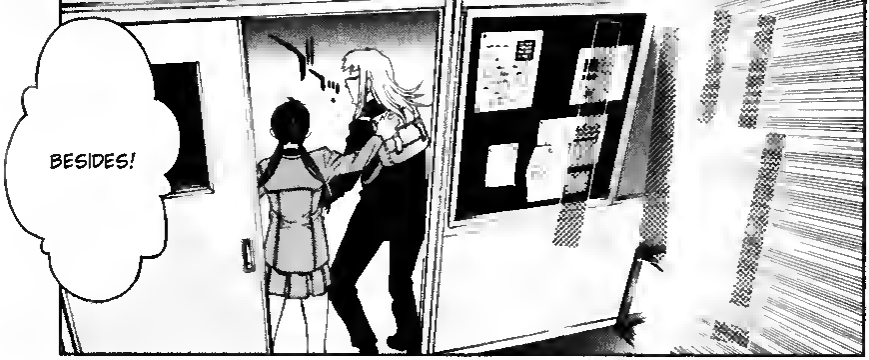

AH, THAT'S RIGHT!
KEEP WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY A SECRET FROM HARU.
YE .. YEAH..
.....
GEEZ, THIS IS NO JOKE...

HOW COULD YOU HAVE SEEN AKI-CHAN?

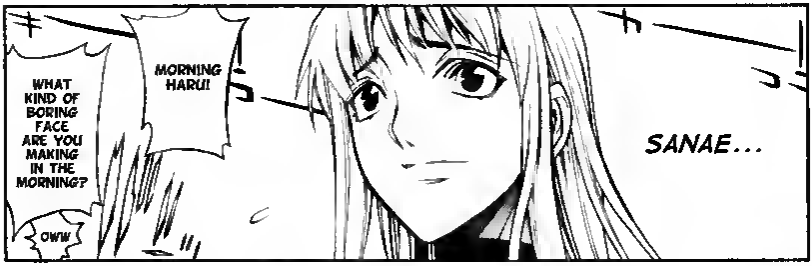
YEAH....
I KNOW....

I THINK HE WOULD DEFINITELY BE HURT.
NEVER SAYS ANYTHING ABOUT HIS SISTER ANY-MORE, BUT

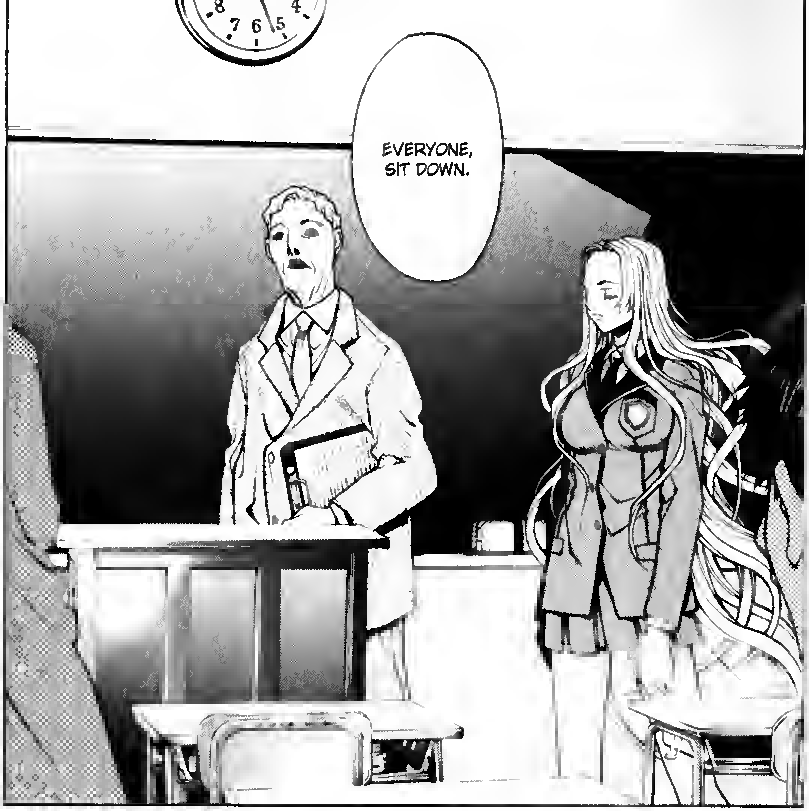
HARU


BESIDES!

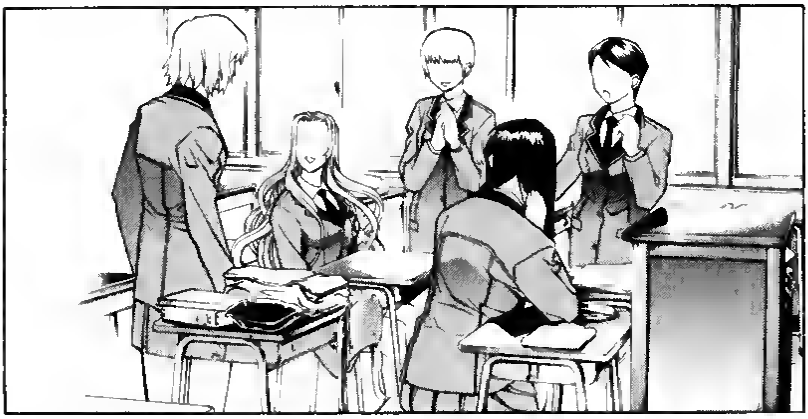
WE LOOKED AROUND CAREFULLY AFTER THAT,
BUT WE COULDN'T FIND THE GIRL YOU SAW.

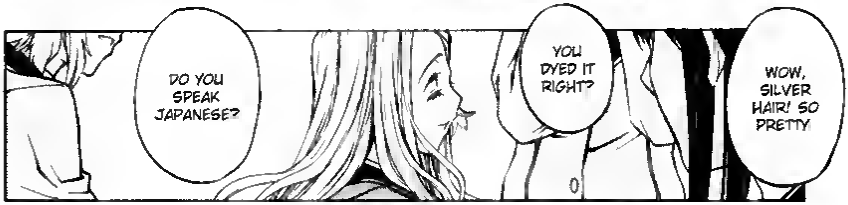

SANAE...
MORNING HARU!
WHAT KIND OF BORING FACE ARE YOU MAKING IN THE MORNING?
OWW

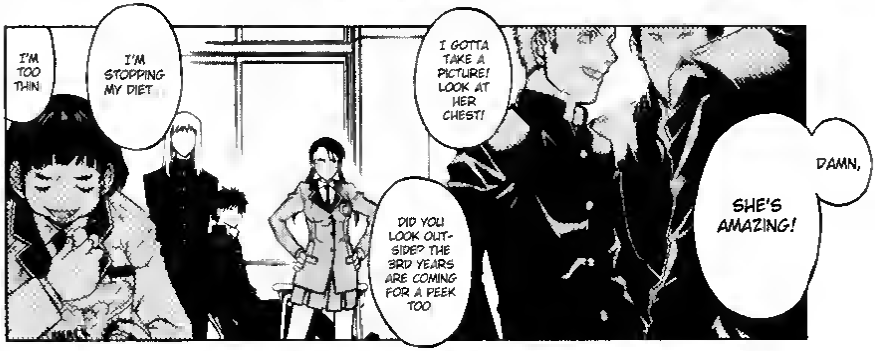
AH
DAMN...
THE TEACHER'S HERE ALREADY.


EVERYONE, SIT DOWN.

IT'S SUDDEN, BUT I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW TRANSFER STUDENT.
THIS IS KRIS KUSAKADO-KUN.
SHE'S AN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM ENGLAND.




DO YOU SPEAK JAPANESE?
YOU DYED IT RIGHT?
WOW, SILVER HAIR! SO PRETTY


I'M TOO THIN
I'M STOPPING MY DIET
I GOTTA TAKE A PICTURE! LOOK AT HER CHEST!
DID YOU LOOK OUTSIDE? THE 3RD YEARS ARE COMING FOR A PEEK TOO
DAMN, SHE'S AMAZING!

AH! IT'S SO UNFAIR!

AH, GEEZ!
WHY'S EVERYBODY MAKING SUCH A FUSS?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
IT'S PRETTY RUDE TO KUSAKADO-SAN ISN'T IT?
HEY!
YOU THINK SO TOO RIGHT KAZUNARI?
EH?
AH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I WONDER WHAT SHAMPOO SHE USES.

SANAE?
EH?
WHAT?
I'M GOING TO THE BATH-ROOM!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

NO WAY!
...
NO NO NO! IN THE FIRST PLACE...
THIS IS THE MOST CONVE-NIENT WAY TO DO SO.
ABOVE ALL, MY MISSION IS TO OBSERVE YOU.

JUST HOW OLD ARE YOU ANYWAY?!
I'M 17.

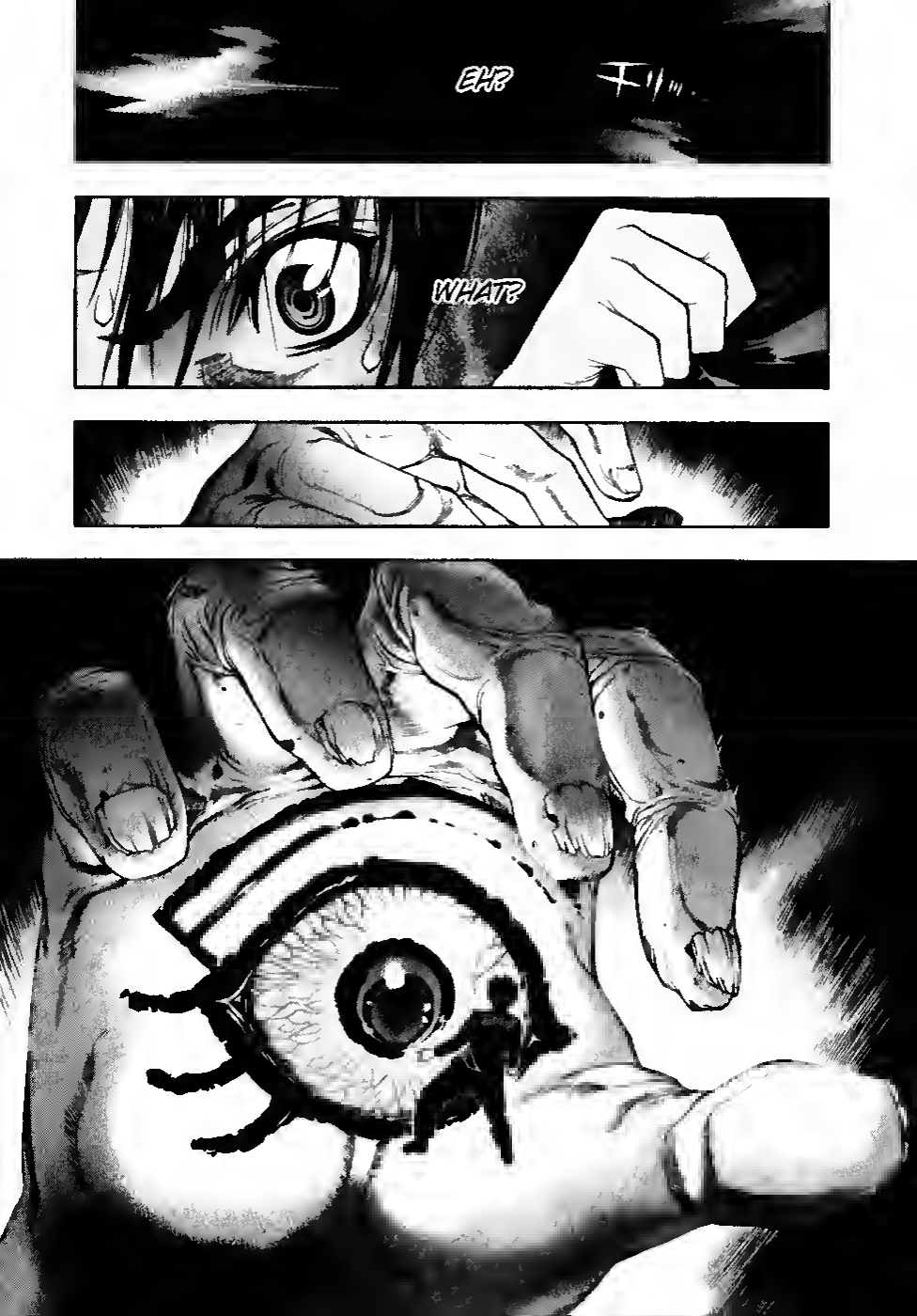
A-
ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU'RE THE SAME AGE AS ME?
YES.
!
HOLD ON.
WHAT ABOUT MANA?
IS SOME-ONE PRO-TECT-ING HER?!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT
FROM SOME-ONE WHO IS NEGLECTING HER AND COMING HERE.
AH...
I...

PREPARE 2 TABLE-SPOONS OF SOY SAUCE, 2 TABLE-SPOONS OF SAUCE, AND 1 TABLE-SPOON OF KETCHUP.
THEN CUT UP A HANDFUL OF BEEF, AND SLICE UP AN ONION...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
THERE IS SOMEONE FROM THE HOLLYHOCK SYNDICATE
PROTECT-ING HER FROM THE SHADOWS.

THE HOLLYHOCK SYNDICATE?
ARE THOSE GUYS REALLY OKAY?
I CAN'T BE CALM ABOUT IT.
THERE ARE CERTAINLY MANY PLACES WHERE THEY'VE FALLEN BEHIND THE SEVEN SHEATHES, BUT...
THEY HAVE MORE UP THEIR SLEEVES THAN YOU THINK.
WELL, IT'S OKAY
MORE IMPORTANTLY MORISAKI HARUMI, IS YOU.

!!
SINCE THEN, HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ANYTHING?
IT SEEMS LOGICAL
THAT YOU COULDN'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING
DURING JUST THAT ONE INTERVIEW.
IT SEEMS THERE IS A GAP IN YOUR MEMORY UNTIL THE DAY YOU WERE RESCUED FROM THE 13TH WARD.
BECAUSE YOU WERE ROBBED OF YOUR FAMILY BY YAMATA,

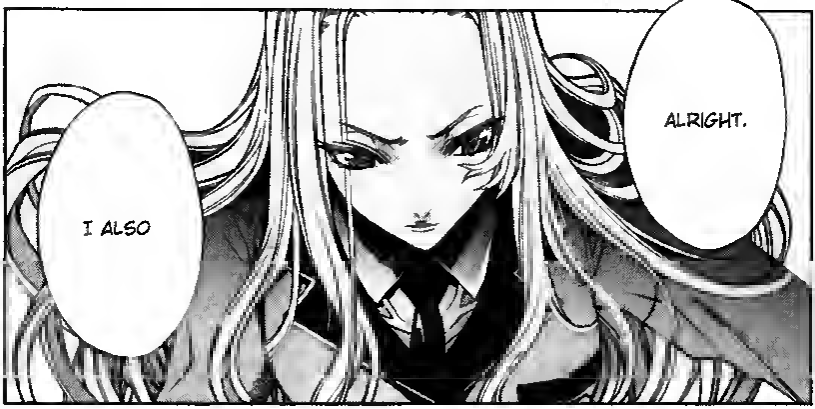
WHAT HAPPENED IN THOSE DAYS HOLDS THE KEY
TO HOW YOU DEVELOPED A BOND WITH MANA AS HER WIELDER!
DIDN'T YOU SEE SOME-THING?
HOLD —
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF THAT TIME?

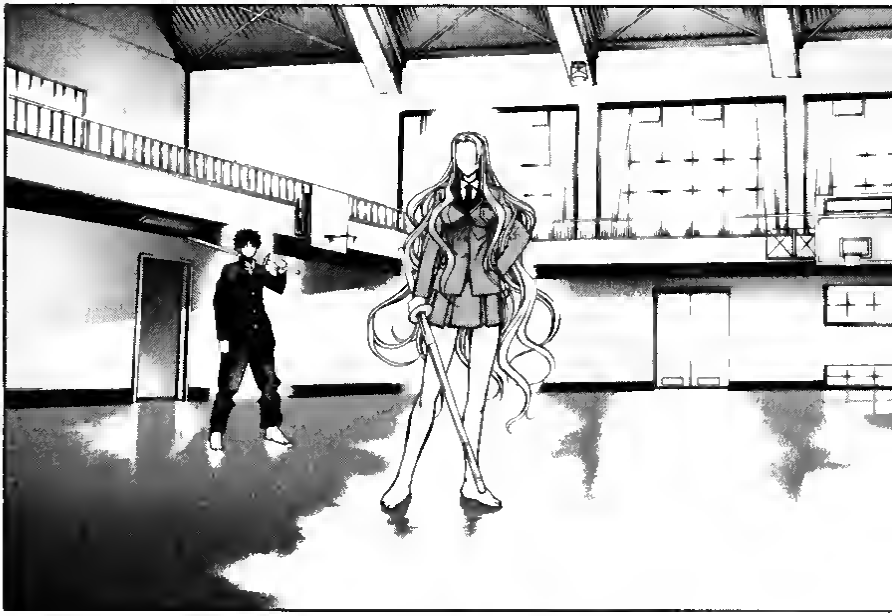

EH?
WHAT?

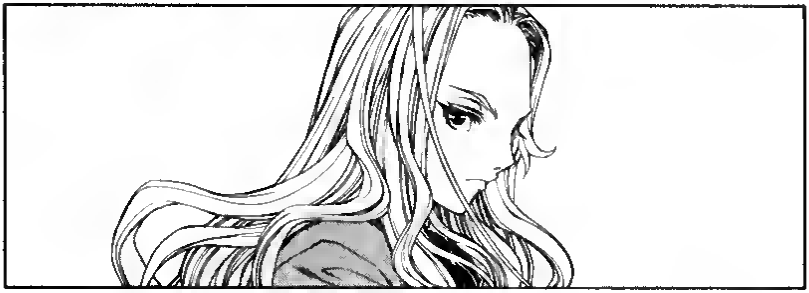
DID YOU REMEMBER SOME-THING?
WHAT IS IT?!
!!!
URGH...
TSS.
I DON'T KNOW!
NOTHING
DID YOU SAY THAT YOU'RE GOING TO PROTECT ME?
HEY...

YOU FOLLOW-ING ME HERE TO SCHOOL!
IT'S LIKE A BAD JOKE,
HAVE A MATCH WITH ME!
HAVE...
IF I'M STRONGER THEN I DON'T NEED YOU!
ISN'T THAT TRUE?!
IF I WIN, THEN DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE TO ME AGAIN!

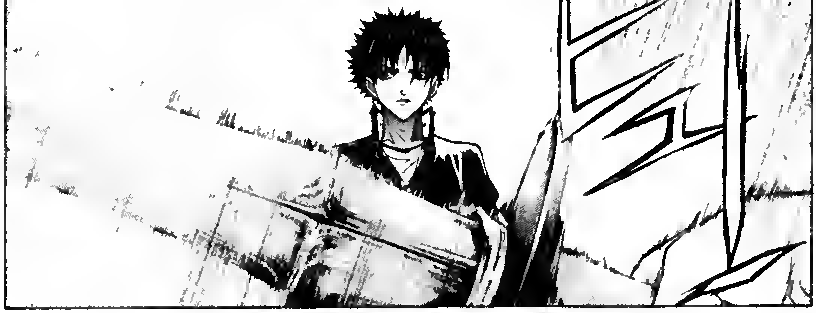
BG : SIGH

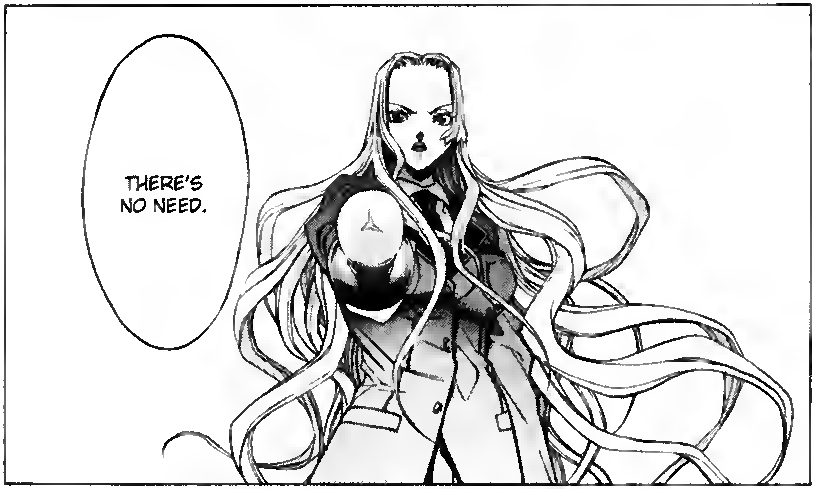




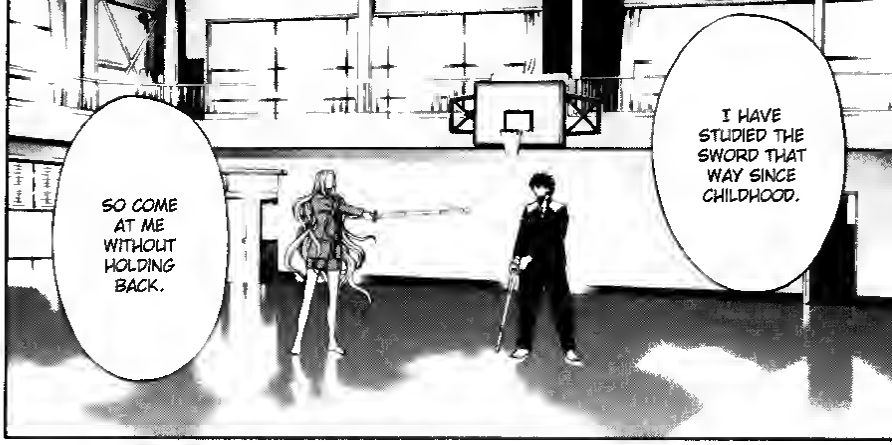


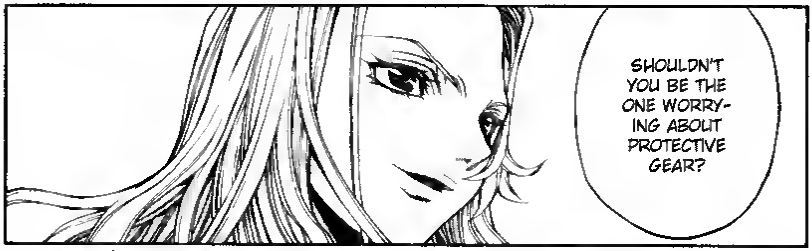
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WEAR PROTECTIVE GEAR?
IS IT ALRIGHT?




THERE'S NO NEED.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUE WAY OF KENJUTSU HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE BLOODLINE OF THE KUSAKADO FAMILY.
WE DO NOT USE PROTEC-TION DURING TRAINING.

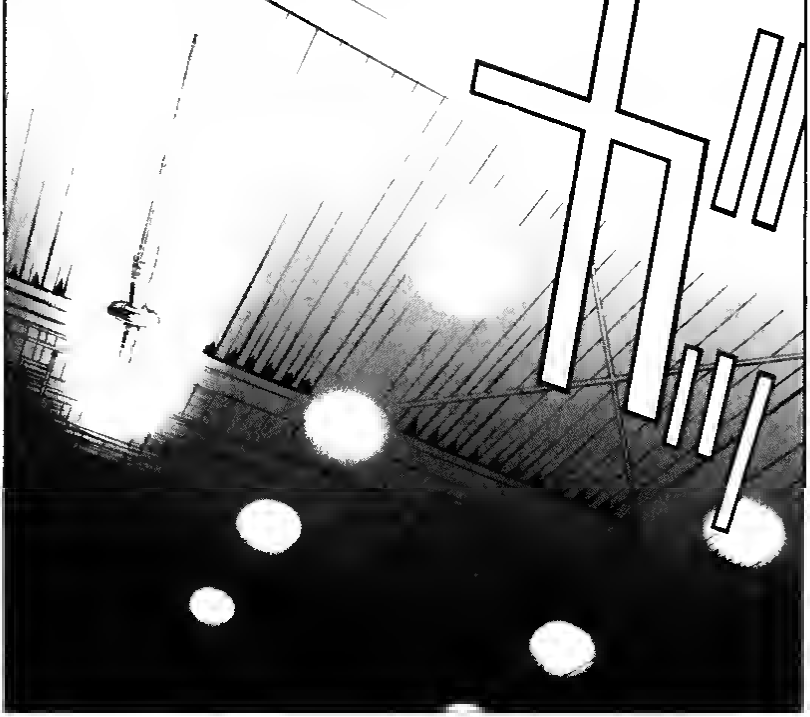

I HAVE STUDIED THE SWORD THAT WAY SINCE CHILDHOOD.
SO COME AT ME WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.

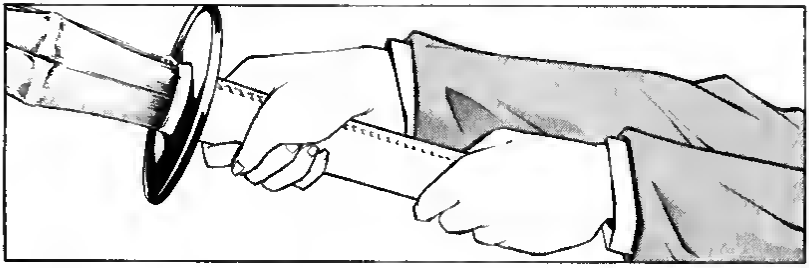

SHOULDN'T YOU BE THE ONE WORRYING ABOUT PROTECTIVE GEAR?

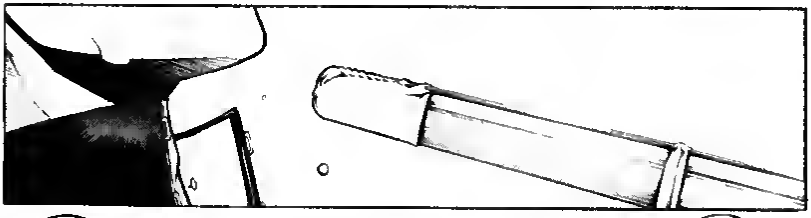
HAH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I CAN DO IT!
THIS ISN'T THE SAME ME THAT WAS BEWILDERED BY THOSE DECEPTIVE MOVEMENTS.
I CAN DO IT...

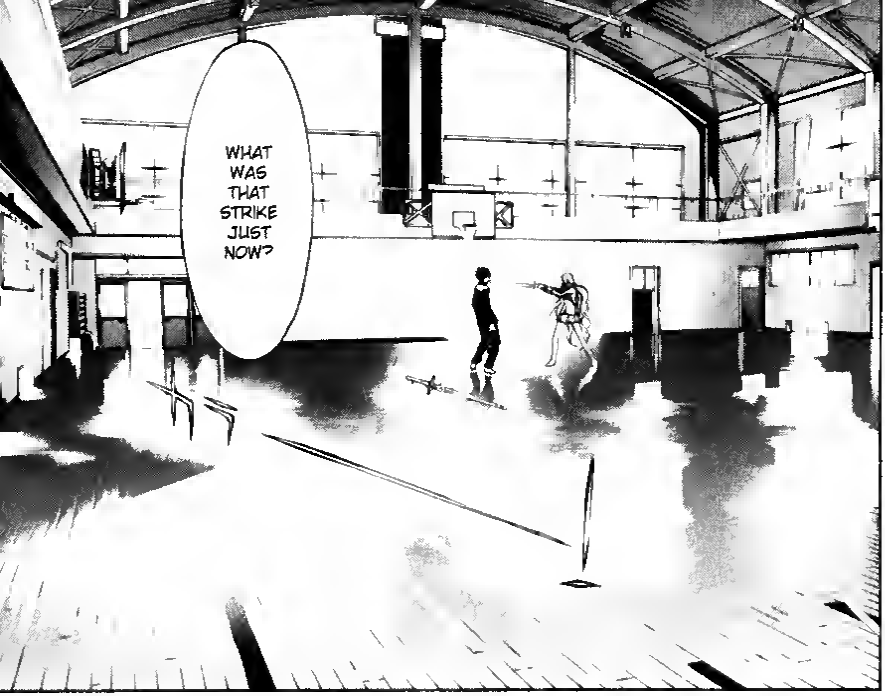
IF I HAVE THAT POWER...
AT THAT TIME, I COULD SEE THE MOVEMENTS OF HIS SWORD PERFECTLY.
RA AA AA HH!
DO IT!
I CAN

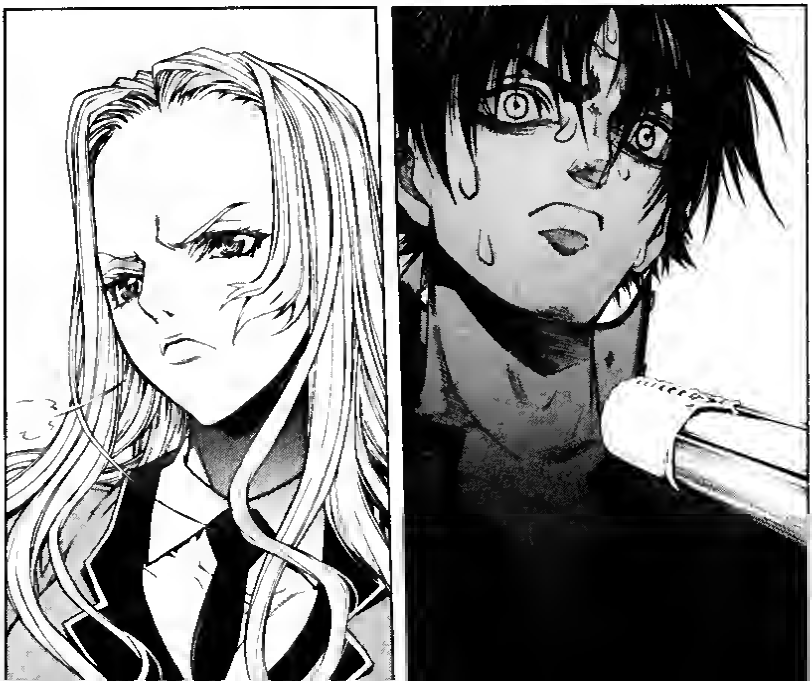




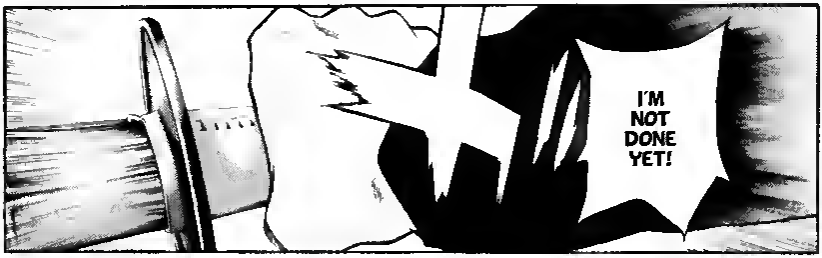


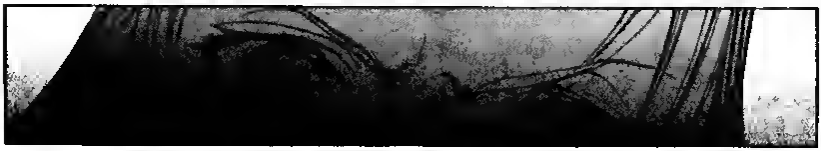
WAS THAT?
WHAT

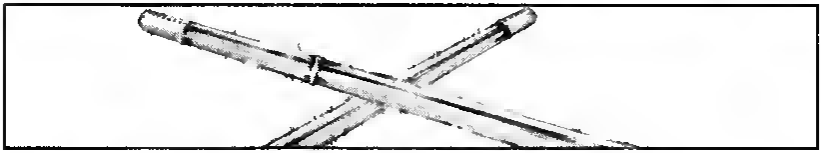

WHAT WAS THAT STRIKE JUST NOW?



GEH...

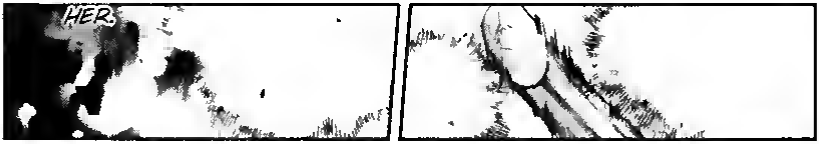

I'M NOT DONE YET!





IS THIS?
WHAT...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
MY SWORD...
DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH HER.



DAMN... IT...

HAAAH
UGH
HAHH

DAMN
IT!

YOU'RE TOO WEAK.
WHAT A LET-DOWN.
ZE-HAH HHH
GAA AHH

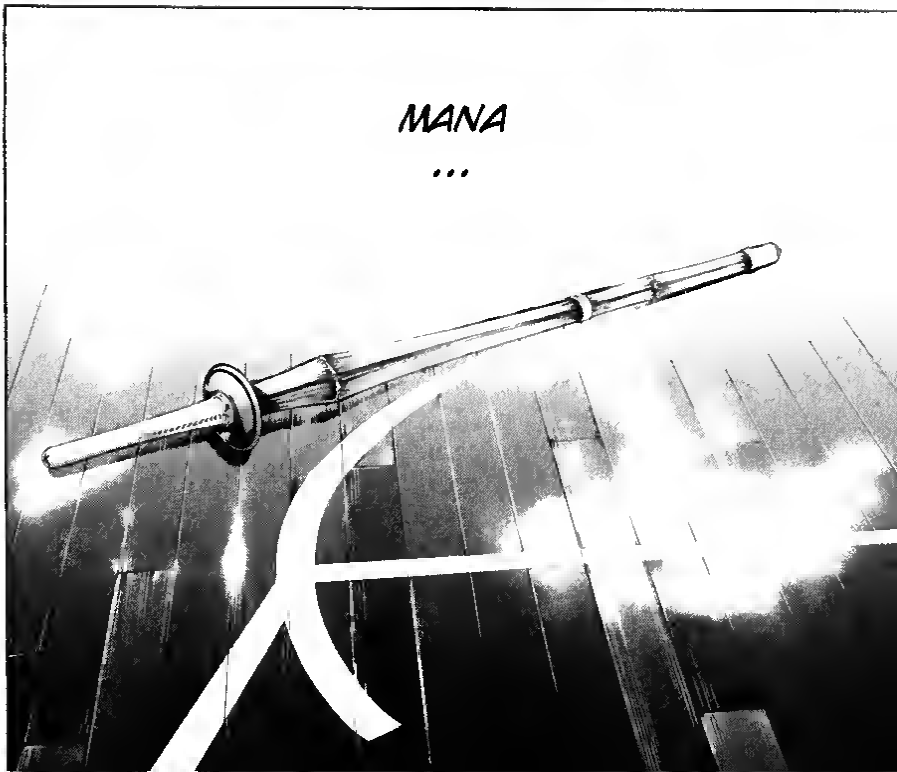
AS PROMISED, I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM NOW ON.
WELL, IT'S ALRIGHT.
YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP IS VULGAR
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM OF ABILITY.
EVEN IN THE SWORDSMANSHIP OF AN AMATEUR, ONE CAN STILL FEEL MANY HIDDEN THOUGHTS.
BUT YOUR SWORD IS JUST AN OBJECT.

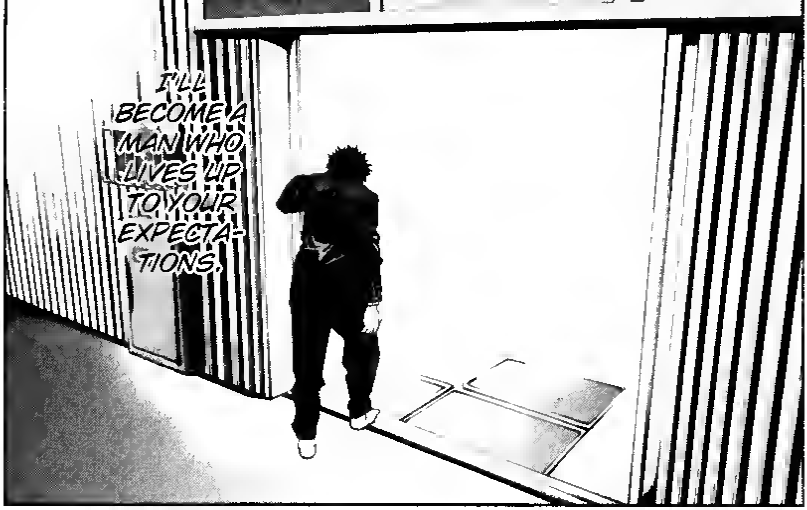
I FEEL SORRY
FOR MANA.

HAHA
SHE'S RIGHT
HA...

I'VE... BEEN MIS-UNDER-STANDING...
I'M NOT WEAK AT ALL...
I'M JUST AWFUL.
I JUST BORROWED SOMEONE ELSE'S POWER AND GOT ALL FULL OF MYSELF.
MANA...

I'LL
BECOME
STRONG
...


MANA
...


I'LL BECOME A MAN WHO LIVES UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

AHH ...
AH ...
I WILL ...

X.12 END

NCIS @IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

or

WWW.NCISMANGA.NET

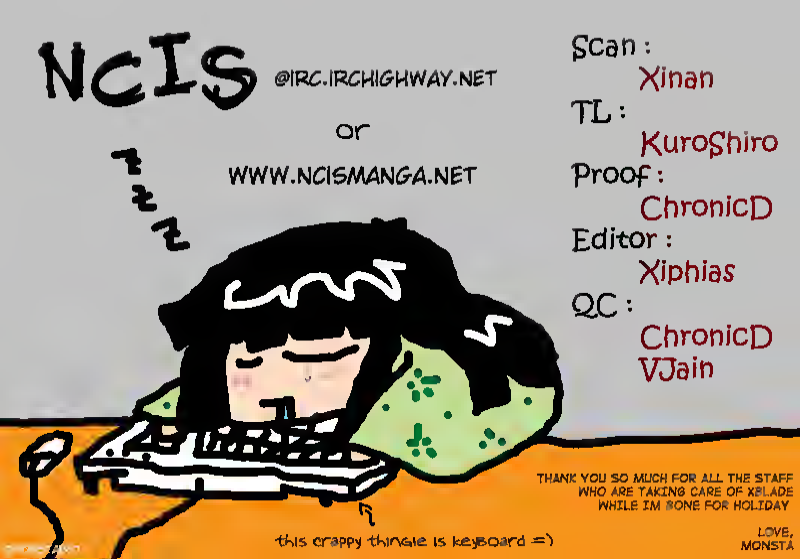
Scan : Xinan

TL : KuroShiro

Proof : ChronicD

Editor : Xiphias

QC : ChronicD VJain

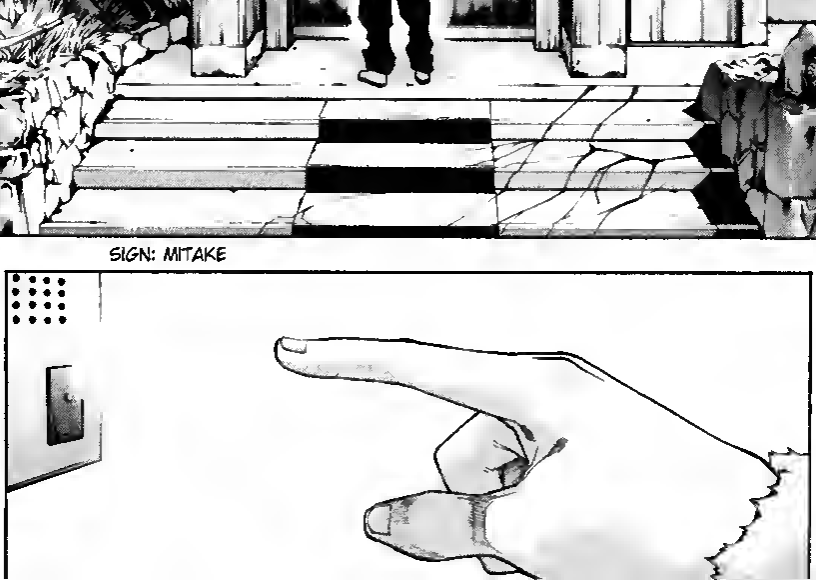


THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE STAFF WHO ARE TAKING CARE OF XBLADE WHILE IM GONE FOR HOLIDAY

LOVE, MONSTA

X.13 DRAGONFLY

SIGN: MITAKE



御嶽総合病院
AH! HARU! WEL-COME!
AH?
KAZUNARI? IT'S ME, HARU
YES?

ACK!

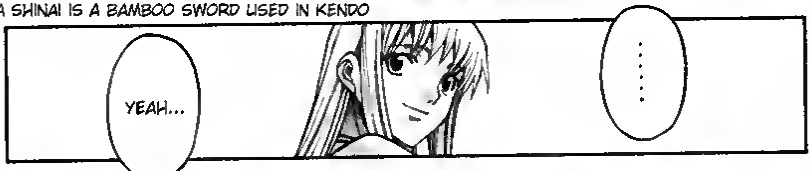
WAIT A SEC-OND, I'M COMING TO GET YOU.

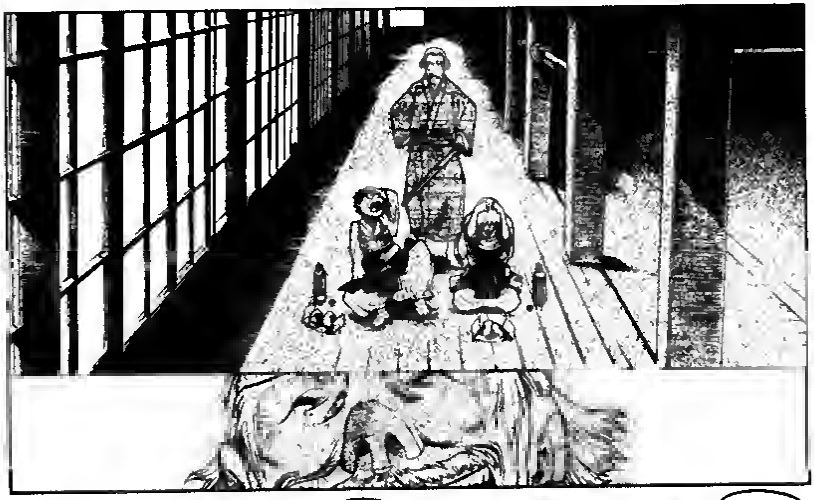
OWWWWW
UGH...
HEYA HARU.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
HARU?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
H... HEY, GRAMPS!
I'M GONNA GO
GAH, KAZUNARI, WHAT ARE YOU LETTING THIS OLD FART DO TO ME?!
HOME...
URRRGGHHHH
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY. LET'S AT LEAST HAVE SOME TEA

HO HO.
"DENSUKE" KING-SIZED RED BEAN BUNS.
OH MY,
UM, GRANDFA-THER, YOU SHOULDN'T EAT SWEETS ... YOUR DIABETES...
YOU REMEMBERED MY FAVORITE FOOD. HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU HARU.
IT STILL HURTS! I WANNA CRY.
HARU, ARE YOU OKAY?

*A SHINAI IS A BAMBOO SWORD USED IN KENDO





HARU, IS THE REASON YOU'VE SHOWN YOUR FACE HERE AFTER SO LONG
TO LEARN THE OLD STYLES?
!!
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM KAZUNARI.
PLEASE!
GRAMPS!
NO, I MEAN MASTER!
PLEASE TEACH ME THE OLD STYLES OF MARTIAL ARTS!

PLEASE TEACH HARU!
IT'S A REQUEST FROM ME AS WELL, GRAND-PA!
HMMM.
HARU'S DECIDED TO WALK DOWN THE PATH OF THE SWORD ONCE AGAIN.
I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT
THE DAY I COULD COMPETE WITH HARU USING A SWORD.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WAIT-ING FOR THIS DAY!
THAT'S RIGHT.

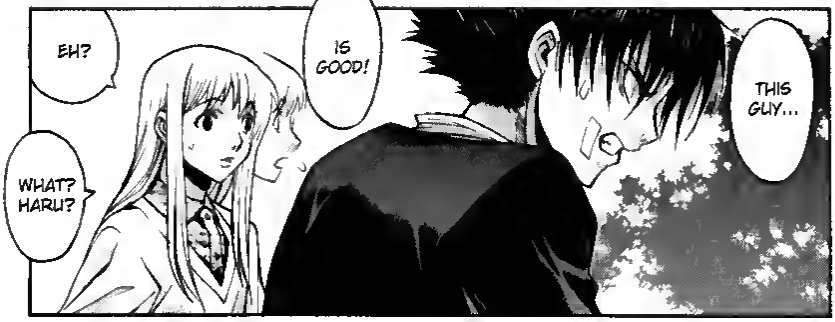
I'VE ONLY TAUGHT MODERN KENDO TO KAZUNARI.
HONESTLY, I THOUGH IT'D BE OKAY IF IT JUST ENDED WITH MY GENERATION.
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE?
SO ..
BUT...
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE,
.....
IS THAT SOOOOO?
GIVING LESSONS TO YOUNG PEOPLE HAS GOTTEN SO TIRING,
WITH MY DIA-BETES AND ALL ..
I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY TIRED IN MY OLD AGE.
THEREFORE,

!!
I WENT AND FOUND A PERFECT INSTRUCTOR FOR YOU.
SEIICHI-KUN.
!
!!

EH?
HUH?
HAHA.

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A SINGLE OPENING.
THOSE MOVEMENTS JUST NOW...

IT WAS VERY CLOSE TO THOSE DECEPTIVE MOVEMENTS OF
THE SEVEN SHEATHS!


EH?
IS GOOD!
THIS GUY...
WHAT? HARU?

THIS IS KUDOU SEIICHI-KUN.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.

HEY, NICE TO MEET YOU.
YOU'RE MORISAKI-KUN?
...NICE TO MEET YOU.
SEIICHI-KUN IS THE GRAND-CHILD OF AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE.
AT ONE TIME HE WAS THE HOPE OF THE COLLEGE KENDO WORLD.
THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE REMOVED HIM-SELF FROM THE WORLD OF KENDO,
AND EVER SINCE HE HAS BEEN LIVING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY STUDYING THE OLD STYLE OF KEN-JUTSU.

AND BY COINCIDENCE,
HE JUST HAPPENS TO BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE.
HEY SEIICHI-KUN,
COULD YOU GIVE THIS KID SOME LESSONS?
I BEG YOU!
HAHA.
WELL, I'M NOT REALLY QUALIFIED AS AN INSTRUC-TOR, BUT...

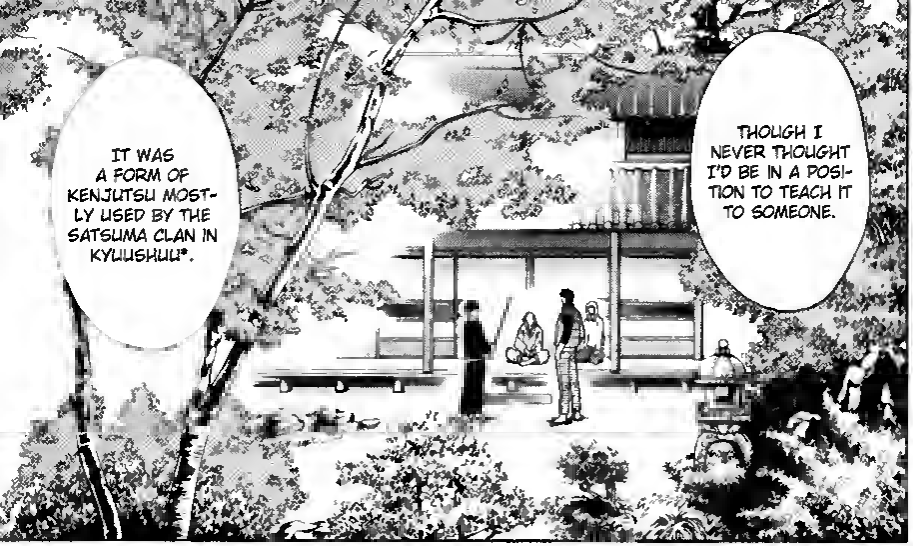
HARU,
IT'S GREAT!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
...
BY THE WAY, MORISAKI-KUN,
BY LEARNING THE OLD STYLES,
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO?

MY SWORD ..
.....
YOUR SWORDS-MANSHIP IS VULGAR.
I WANT TO PUT WEIGHT INTO MY ATTACK
YOUR SWORD
IS JUST AN OBJECT.
I WANT TO KNOW
HOW TO LET MY LIFE RIDE ON MY SWORD

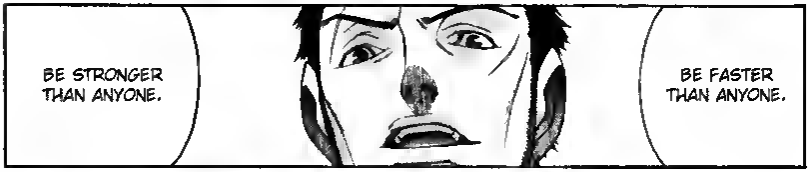
MORISAKI-KUN.
WATCH CAREFULLY.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT,
THEN THERE IS A PERFECT KIND OF KENJUTSU FOR YOU.

ZUOOOOOO!
THAT STANCE!

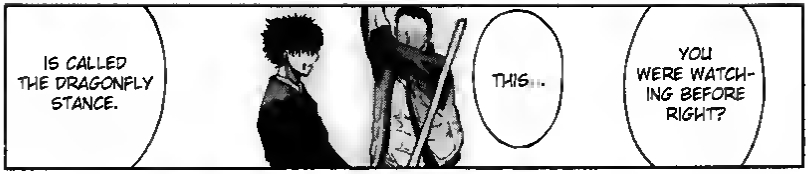
*RYUU MEANS STYLE.


IT WAS A FORM OF KENJUTSU MOSTLY USED BY THE SATSUMA CLAN IN KYUUSHUU*.
THOUGH I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE IN A POSITION TO TEACH IT TO SOMEONE.

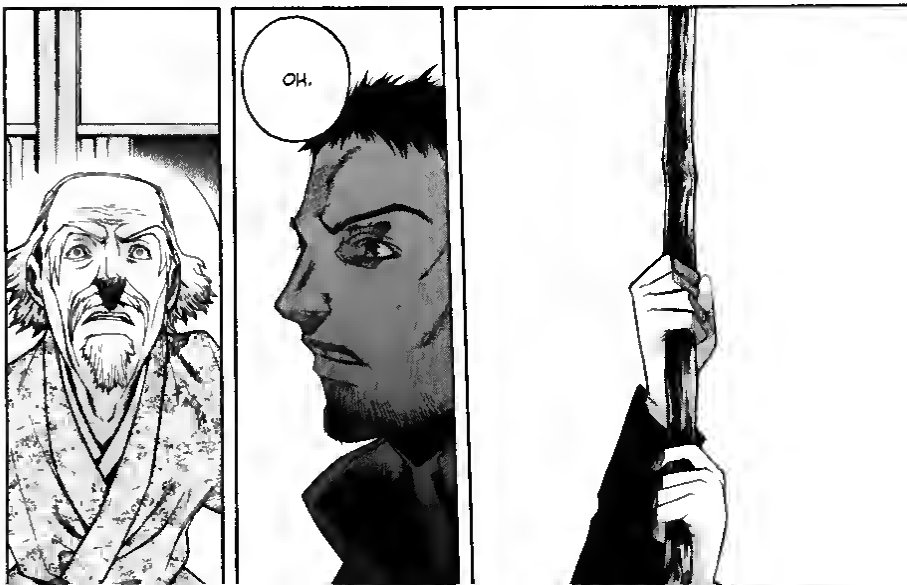
*ONE OF THE FOUR ISLANDS OF JAPAN.



THIS...
IS THE SAME AS THAT TIME!!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...


IS CALLED THE DRAGONFLY STANCE.
THIS...
YOU WERE WATCHING BEFORE RIGHT?

...DRAGONFLY...


OH.

HIS FORM LOOKS PERFECT.
...WHAT'S THIS?

TRY STRIKING THAT BRANCH.
WELL, OKAY THEN.
I WANT TO SEE YOUR WILLPOWER.
WE CAN DEAL WITH THE FINE DETAILS LATER.
USE YOUR ENTIRE BODY, AND LET YOUR SOUL RIDE ON YOUR SWORD.
LET YOUR VOICE OUT AS LOUD AS YOU CAN.

OH...
OOHHH...
GAAAA
AAAAAAAAAA!!

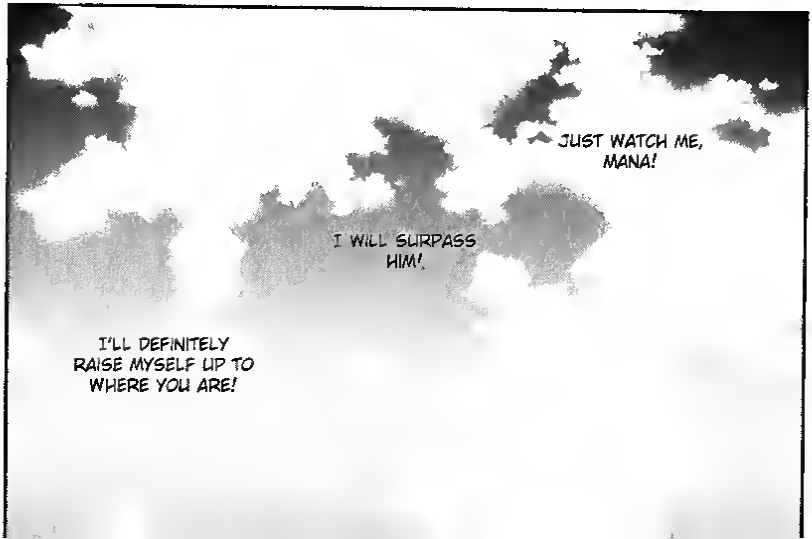
!!!
KUUSHIROU!
THIS IS... THE SAME MOVEMENT AS THAT TIME...
THE MOVEMENTS OF THAT MAN, THAT REMAIN INSIDE OF ME...

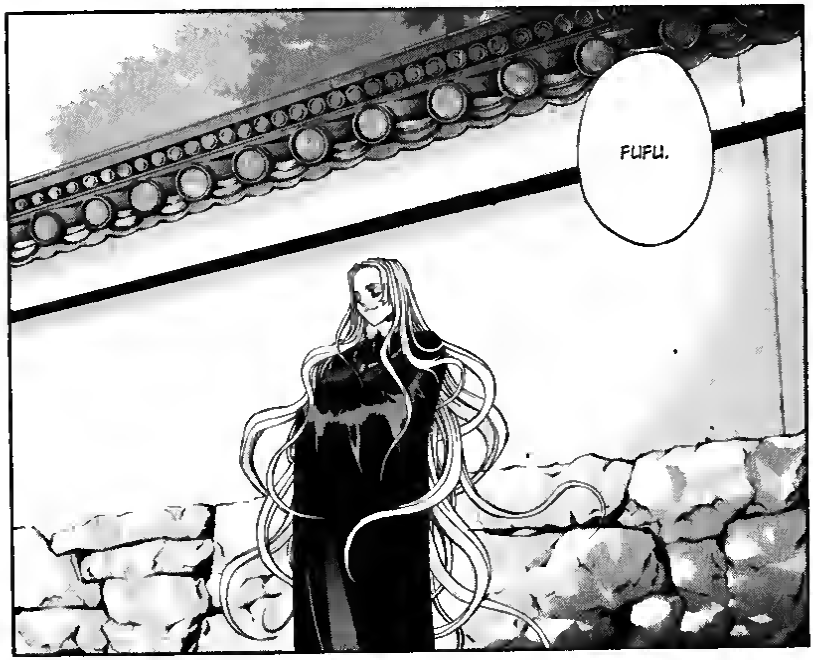
DID I REALLY MOVE LIKE THAT?
SO FAST...
SO BEAUTI-FULLY...

AH...
IS IT REALLY YOUR FIRST TIME?!
THAT WAS A-MA-ZING!
?
NOT AT ALL.
NO...
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT... MY FIRST TIME.

AMAZING!
HAHA.
KUUSHIROU!
YOU'RE REALLY AMAZING
I EXPECTED NO LESS FROM THE MAN MANA FELL IN LOVE WITH.

I'LL SURPASS YOU! SURPASS YOU! DAMNIT!!
UOOOOHHHHH!! I'LL DO IT!


JUST WATCH ME, MANA!
I WILL SURPASS HIM!
I'LL DEFINITELY RAISE MYSELF UP TO WHERE YOU ARE!



*KRIS' HONORIFIC TITLE IN THE MAGIC COURT

*クリスの魔術位階に対する敬称

...NOTHING.
HEY, KAZUNARI.
YEAH...
AL-THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S HARDLY A BEGINNER.
IS THIS REALLY THE FIRST TIME HARU'S STUD-IED THE OLD STYLES?
I SEE.

VERY INTERESTING!
INTERESTING!
...HARU...
PLAYING DIRTY...
THAT'S...

I'M HOME!
OOO
AREN'T YOU A BIT LATE HARU?
EVEN THOUGH I WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF PREPARING FOOD.

FORGIVE ME, MANA.
SORRY!

AH! WHAT'S THIS? IT LOOKS GOOD!
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
AAAHHH, MAN I'M HUNGRY.
HARU, YOUR HANDS...

...HARU...

BLECHH!
WHAT'S THIS, ARE YOU FOR REAL?!
I...
IDIOT!!
IT'S JUST LIKE I SAW ON TELEVISION!

X.13 END

TO BE CONTINUED.